CAPITOL PUBLICATIONS
CDC
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION
No 8
10¢
RACKET SQUAD
IN ACTION
INSPECTOR
INFORMATION

STOP SMOKING

TOBACCO COUGH—TOBACCO HEART—TOBACCO BREATH—TOBACCO NERVES...
NEW, SAFE FORMULA HELPS YOU BREAK HABIT IN JUST 7 DAYS

YOU CAN STOP

- Tobacco Nerves — STOP
- Tobacco Breath — STOP
- Tobacco Cough — STOP
- Burning Mouth — Due To Smoking — STOP
- Hot Burning Tongue — Due To Smoking — STOP
- Poisonous Nicotine — Due To Smoking — STOP
- Tobacco expense

No matter how long you have been a victim of the expensive, unhealthful nicotine and smoke habit, this amazing scientific (easy to use) 7-day formula will help you to stop smoking—IN JUST SEVEN Days! Countless thousands who have broken the vicious Tobacco Habit now feel better, look better—actually feel healthier because they breath clean, cool fresh air into their lungs instead of the stultifying Tobacco tar, Nicotine, and Benzo Pyrene—all these irritants that come from cigarettes and cigars. You can't lose anything but the Tobacco Habit by trying this amazing, easy method—You Can Stop Smoking!

SEND NO MONEY

Aver. 1½-Pack per Day Smoker Spends $125.90 per Year

Let us prove to you that smoking is nothing more than a repulsive habit that sends unhealthful impurities into your mouth, throat and lungs . . . a habit that does you no good and may result in harmful physical reactions. Spend those tobacco $$$ on useful, healthgiving benefits for yourself and your loved ones. Send NO Money! Just mail the Coupon on our absolute Money-Back Guarantee that this 7-Day test will help banish your desire for tobacco—not for days or weeks, but FOREVER! Mail the coupon today.

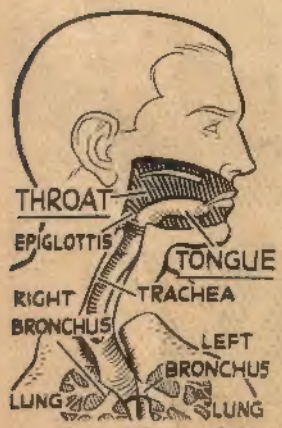
HOW HARMFUL ARE CIGARETTES AND CIGARS?

Numerous Medical Papers have been written about the evil, harmful effects of Tobacco Breath, Tobacco Heart, Tobacco Lungs, Tobacco Mouth, Tobacco Nervousness . . . Now, here at last is the amazing easy-to-take scientific discovery that helps destroy your desire to smoke in just 7 Days—or it won't cost you one cent. Mail the coupon today—the only thing you can loose is the offensive, expensive, unhealthful smoking habit!

ATTENTION DOCTORS:

Doctor, we can help you, too! Many Doctors are unwilling victims to the repulsive Tobacco Habit. We make the guarantee to you, too, Doctor. (A Guarantee that most Doctors dare not make to their own patients) . . . If this sensational discovery does not banish your craving for tobacco forever . . . your money cheerfully refunded.

YOU WILL LOSE THE DESIRE TO SMOKE IN 7 DAYS . . . OR NO COST TO YOU



Here's What Happens When You Smoke . . .

The nicotine laden smoke you inhale becomes deposited on your throat and lungs . . . (The average Smoker does this 300 times a day!) Nicotine irritates the Mucous Membranes of the respiratory tract and Tobacco Tar injures those membranes. Stop Tobacco Cough, Tobacco Heart, Tobacco Breath . . . Banish smoking forever, or no cost to you. Mail the coupon now.

Don't be a slave to tobacco. . . . Enjoy your right to clean, healthful, natural living. Try this amazing discovery for just 7-Days. . . . Easy to take, pleasant, no after-taste. If you haven't broken the smoking habit forever . . . return empty carton in 10 Days for prompt refund. Mail the coupon now.

STOP SMOKING—MAIL COUPON NOW!

DOCTOR'S ORDERS PRODUCTS
7-Day Tobacco Curb—Dept. 61
1227 Loyola Ave.
Chicago 26, Illinois

SENT TO YOU IN PLAIN WRAPPER

On your 10-Day Money-Back Guarantee send me Doctor's Orders 7-Day Tobacco Curb. If not entirely satisfied I can return for prompt refund.

☐ Send 7-Day Supply. I will pay Postman $2.00 plus Postage and C.O.D. Charges.
Save 45c on C.O.D. Money Order Fee and Postage by sending cash with Order. Same Money-Back Guarantee applies.

☐ Enclosed is $2.00 for 7-Day Supply, you pay postage costs.

☐ Enclosed is $4.00 for 2 boxes of the 7-Day Supply for myself and a loved one. You pay postage costs.

NAME_____
(Please Print)
ADDRESS_____
TOWN_____ ZONE____ STATE_____

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION published bi-monthly by Capitol Stories, Inc. Executive Offices and Office of publication, Charlton Building, Derby, Conn. Entered as Second Class Matter at Post Office at Derby, Conn. Price per copy 10c. Subscription 60c yearly. Vol. 1, No. 8, August, 1953. Copyright 1953 by Capitol Stories, Inc. Alfred V. Fago, Editor; Walter Gibson, Assistant Editor.
Printed in the U. S. A.

THERE'S BIG MONEY TO BE MADE FROM "HOT" CARS, WHEN SHREWD RACKETEERS ARE...

in the DRIVER'S SEAT

THIS IS GOODBYE FOR YOU, COPPER! YOU KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT OUR LITTLE SWINDLE...
ENOUGH TO SEND YOU ALL TO PRISON! THE GARAGE IS SURROUNDED... DROP THE GUN, UNLESS YOU WANT TO BE CARRIED OUT FEET FIRST!
J.J. O'MALLEY

ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST LUCRATIVE RACKETS... WHICH MAY VICTIMIZE ALMOST ANY CITIZEN AT ANY TIME... IS THE WIDESPREAD TRAFFIC IN STOLEN AUTOMOBILES. TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ARE LOST ANNUALLY TO THE HOT CAR THIEF, WHO RELIES ON THE OWNERS' CARELESSNESS OR... IN THIS CASE... EAGERNESS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A "FREE" OFFER!

I'D LIKE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS FREE "GET ACQUAINTED" OFFER YOU SENT TO MY OFFICE. NAME'S KELLER!
YOU BET, SIR! GLAD TO BE OF SERVICE TO YOU!

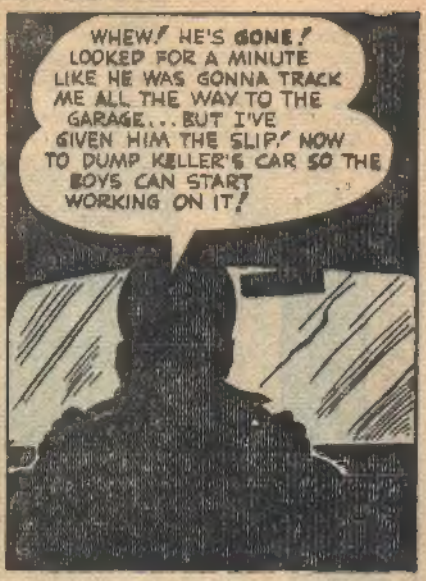
FREE OIL AND LUBRICATION, TO SHOW OUR SUPERIOR SERVICE! JUST ONE QUESTION, MR. KELLER... WHERE DO YOU PARK YOUR CAR DURING BUSINESS HOURS? SO WE CAN RETURN IT AFTER WE'RE FINISHED!
YOU RETURN IT, TOO? THAT IS FREE SERVICE!

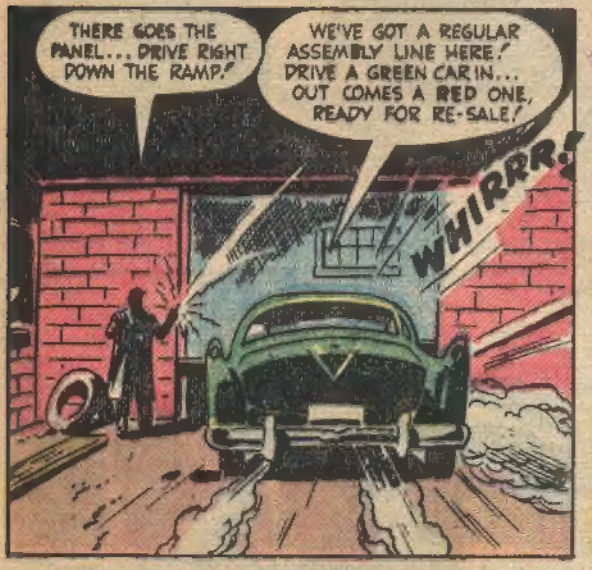
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

GOT IT, MR. KELLER . . 175 SOUTH STREET YOUR CAR'LL BE THERE BY NOON TIME AND THANKS A LOT!
THANK YOU!
ANOTHER SUCKER, MIKE. THAT "FREE" BAIT SURE BRINGS 'EM IN! ANY CALLS FOR A 1951 TWO-DOOR "CADDY"?
I CAN ALWAYS PUSH THOSE, PETE!
HERE'S A DEALER IN HARTFORD WHO CAN USE A MAROON MODEL. WE'LL REPAINT THIS ONE. BUT, FIRST, GIVE IT THE FREE OIL AND LUBE JOB... THEN GET A SET OF DUPLICATE KEYS MADE!
IGNITION AND TRUNK CASE? CHECK, BOSS...
THE OFFER OF FREE SERVICE WAS FULFILLED, AND KELLER'S CAR WAS PROMPTLY RETURNED TO ITS CUSTOMARY PARKING PLACE. THEN, THREE DAYS LATER...
PICK UP THAT KELLER'S BOAT, PETE! IF ANYONE QUESTIONS YOU, GIVE 'IM THE USUAL BLARNEY... ADDITIONAL FREE SERVICE! YOU KNOW THE OLD LINE...
HEH HEH! I'VE USED IT OFTEN ENOUGH, BOSS!
NOT A SOUL WATCHING ME! THIS'LL BE A BREEZE! JUST LET MYSELF IN WITH THE DUPLICATE KEYS WE HAD MADE.. THEN DRIVE IT LEISURELY BACK TO THE GARAGE! THEN, PFFT... KELLER'S CAR IS GONE! STOLEN!
S-SOMEBODY PULLED AWAY FROM THE CURB, RIGHT BEHIND ME! I BETTER SPEED IT UP.. TRY TO SHAKE THAT OTHER CAR, JUST IN CASE!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THAT GUY IN THE OTHER CAR... H-HE'S STICKING TO ME LIKE GLUE! I HOPE THIS BUGGY CAN MOVE... HERE GOES THE ACCELERATOR RIGHT TO THE FLOOR!


WHEW! HE'S GONE! LOOKED FOR A MINUTE LIKE HE WAS GONNA TRACK ME ALL THE WAY TO THE GARAGE... BUT I'VE GIVEN HIM THE SLIP! NOW TO DUMP KELLER'S CAR SO THE BOYS CAN START WORKING ON IT!


THERE GOES THE PANEL... DRIVE RIGHT DOWN THE RAMP!
WE'VE GOT A REGULAR ASSEMBLY LINE HERE! DRIVE A GREEN CAR IN... OUT COMES A RED ONE, READY FOR RE-SALE!
WHIRRR!

PETE'S DELIVERING THAT "CADDY" YOU WANTED HIM TO PICK UP. WE'VE GOT CONNECTICUT LICENSE PLATES ALL READY... AND COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO ALTER 'ER!
GOOD! GET TO WORK ON IT RIGHT AWAY! AND CLOSE THAT BACK PANEL AS FAST AS POSSIBLE... I DON'T WANT SNOOPERS TO GET THE IDEA THERE'S ANYTHING MORE THAN A STORAGE ROOM DOWNSTAIRS!

THERE'S OVER A HUNDRED GRAND WORTH OF STOLEN CARS DOWN IN THE BASEMENT... ALL BROUGHT IN THROUGH THAT OFFER OF FREE SERVICE! AND I'LL BET NOT ONE OF THE VICTIMS CONNECTS THE DISAPPEARANCE OF HIS AUTOMOBILE WITH THE FREE SERVICING WE PERFORMED DAYS BEFORE!

FOR WEEKS AFTER MIKE FORREST OFFERED "FREE" SERVICE TO BUSINESS MEN IN THE DISTRICT, CARS CONTINUED TO DISAPPEAR MYSTERIOUSLY FROM THE STREETS. THEN...

HURRY IT UP, WILL YOU? THAT DEALER UP IN HARTFORD IS GETTING ITCHY... I PROMISED DELIVERY YESTERDAY AFTERNOON!
COULDN'T START ON IT 'TIL THIS MORNING, MIKE. WE'RE TURNING CARS OVER SO FAST HERE THAT I'M GONNA NEED A COUPLA MORE ASSISTANTS TO FILL ALL OUR ORDERS!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

CALL, MIKE! LONG DISTANCE... FROM DALLAS!
IF YOU NEED MORE MEN, HARRY... HIRE THEM! THERE'S ENOUGH DOUGH IN THIS RACKET TO DO IT RIGHT! BE RIGHT THERE, BEN... TELL THEM TO HOLD ON!

YEAH, I GOT IT! A BLUE LINCOLN FOUR-DOOR... 1952... WHITE WALL TIRES. I'VE GOT ONE ON THE BOOKS... HAVE A MAN UP HERE EARLY NEXT WEEK TO PICK IT UP AND DRIVE IT DOWN TO TEXAS!

PETE! GOT A HURRY-UP ORDER HERE! DROP WHAT YOU'RE DOING AND COME ON UP TO THE OFFICE SO I CAN GIVE YOU THE KEYS WE HAD MADE!
BE RIGHT THERE, BOSS! AS SOON AS I CLEAN UP A BIT!

THAT BENSON CAR YOU GREASED AND OILED LAST WEEK... PICK IT UP, PETE! IT'S PARKED OVER ON WESLEY AVENUE...
IN FRONT OF THE PROFESSIONAL BUILDING... I REMEMBER IT! BE BACK IN FIFTEEN MINUTES, IF NO ONE'S SNOOPING AROUND!

THE CALL I RECEIVED AT FOUR O'CLOCK THAT AFTERNOON WAS THE FIFTEENTH REPORT OF CAR THEFT IN LESS THAN THREE WEEKS...
BE RIGHT OVER, MR. BENSON... JUST SIT TIGHT!

GRAB YOUR HAT, STEVE! ANOTHER CAR MISSING... THIS ONE FROM IN FRONT OF THE PROFESSIONAL BUILDING ON WESLEY AVENUE!
WOW! THIS IS AN EPIDEMIC! SURE MAKES US LOOK HELPLESS, SIR!

MR. BENSON, IT DEVELOPED, WAS NO MORE HELPFUL THAN THE FOURTEEN OTHER RECENT VICTIMS OF THE STOLEN CAR GANG...
I'M SORRY I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY CLUES, INSPECTOR...
LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT THE PLACE WHERE YOU USUALLY PARK IT, MR. BENSON! THAT OIL LEAK YOU DESCRIBED MIGHT BE JUST THE LEAD WE NEED!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

AND THAT'S WHERE I LEFT IT AT LUNCH TIME, INSPECTOR O'MALLEY! WHEN I LEFT THE OFFICE, A LITTLE EARLIER THAN USUAL THIS AFTERNOON... IT WAS GONE!
LOOK AT THIS, SIR! THAT OIL LEAK, MR. BENSON DESCRIBED...

IT CONTINUES ON DOWN THE STREET... AS IF SOMEONE DROVE THE CAR OFF IN THE LAST FEW MINUTES!
THANKS A LOT FOR YOUR HELP, MR. BENSON! I'LL NOTIFY YOU IF WE HAVE ANY MORE INFORMATION! RIGHT NOW WE'VE GOT A TRAIL TO FOLLOW!

FOR SEVERAL BLOCKS WE WERE ABLE TO FOLLOW THE THIN RIBBON OF OIL. THEN...

THE BEST BREAK WE'VE HAD SO FAR IS BENSON'S BALKY CAR, SIR! LUCKY FOR US THAT...
SLOW DOWN A BIT, STEVE! THE DRIPPING SEEMS TO TURN IN... AT THAT GARAGE!
GARAGE

KEEP GOING, STEVE! NO NEED TO LET THE GARAGE PEOPLE KNOW WE SUSPECT THEM! TURN BACK AND HEAD FOR BENSON'S OFFICE! THERE ARE A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS I'D LIKE TO ASK... STUFF THAT MAY HAVE SLIPPED HIS MIND!

Y-YES, I DID USE THAT GARAGE... ABOUT A WEEK AGO. THEY OFFERED FREE OIL AND LUBRICATION, AS A "GET ACQUAINTED" ENTICEMENT...
JUST THE SORT OF THING AN UNSUSPECTING CUSTOMER WOULD FALL FOR, WITH HIS GUARD DOWN! I'D LIKE TO BORROW THAT OFFER, MR. BENSON!

THE NEXT DAY, IN A BORROWED OFFICIAL CAR... STRIPPED OF ALL IDENTIFICATION CONNECTING IT WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT... STEVE VISITED THE GARAGE.

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THE CAR WAS RETURNED, AS PROMISED. THEN, FOR THREE DAYS, STEVE PRYOR SPENT UNCOMFORTABLE HOURS IN THE CAR, PARKED AT THE LOCATION HE HAD GIVEN THE GARAGE. FINALLY...
JUST GOT A TELEGRAM FROM BOSTON, PETE. THAT BIG BOAT THIS JERK PRYOR BROUGHT IN... PICK IT UP RIGHT AWAY!
ANOTHER CAR TO BE "ALTERED", EH? IT'LL BE A PLEASURE!
OH, BY THE WAY. THAT BENSON CAR WE GRABBED YESTERDAY, WE'RE HAVING A LITTLE TROUBLE WITH IT... IT'S GOT A BAD OIL LEAK!
I KNOW... HARRY TOLD ME ABOUT IT! IT'S A SMALL ENOUGH EXPENSE, CONSIDERING THAT THE ONLY DOUGH THIS RACKET IS COSTING US IS FOR A SET OF DUPLICATE KEYS FOR EACH CAR WE STEAL!
COP AT THE CORNER, BUT HE'S LOOKING THE OTHER WAY! BEEN IN LUCK ALL WEEK... I'VE BEEN STOPPED JUST ONCE, AND TELLING ABOUT DOING SOME MORE "FREE" WORK FIXED IT UP FINE. IT'S A WASTE OF TIME HAVING TO RETURN THE CAR TO LULL ANY SUSPICIONS... MEANS HAVING TO COME BACK A FEW DAYS LATER TO MAKE THE SNATCH! THIS ONE'LL BE EASY!
THESE SUCKERS SURE FALL FOR THAT "FREE" GIMMICK. FUNNY NONE OF 'EM EVER DREAM THAT WE'RE SETTING THEM UP FOR A CAR THEFT IN THE HOUR OR SO IT TAKES TO MAKE DUPLICATE KEYS. NOW BACK TO THE GARAGE... HEH! HEH!
GO STRAIGHT DOWNSTAIRS, PETE! MIKE AND THE BOYS ARE WAITING...
YOU SURE GOT A RACKET! MUST MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE A CHARACTER OUT OF A MURDER PICTURE, OPERATING THAT SECRET PANEL WE RIGGED UP!
COME ON, PETE... BRING IT INTO PLACE FAST, SO WE CAN CLOSE THAT PANEL!
WHAT'S THE HURRY? THEY'LL NEVER TUMBLE TO OUR RACKET IN A MILLION YEARS!
6

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

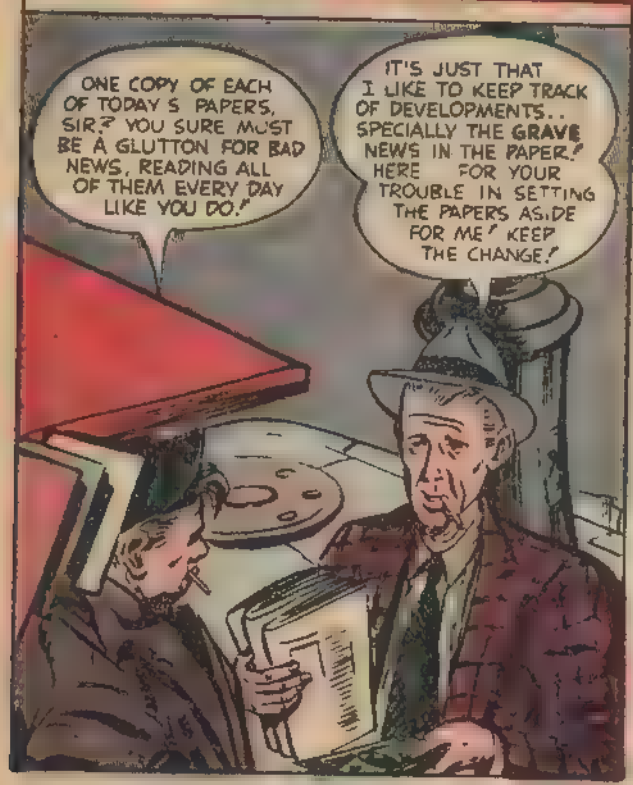
HERE IT IS, MIKE... DELIVERED AS ORDERED. SHE SURE RUNS SWEET. I WOULDN'T MIND BUYING HER MYSELF!
GO STEAL YOUR OWN CAR! THIS ONE'S FOR DELIVERY TO BOSTON... A CLEAN PROFIT OF FOUR GRAND FOR US! MINUS THE EXPENSES OF ALTERING IT...
NOW HERE'S THE RUNDOWN... COLOR'S GOTTA BE CHANGED TO LIGHT GREEN. GIVE IT MASSACHUSETTS PLATES AND NEW SEAT COVERS.
GOTCHA, MIKE. WE'LL START ON IT PRONTO...
HEY, YOU GUYS! DROP WHAT YOU'RE DOING... THIS COMES FIRST! IT'S OUR MOST URGENT ORDER...
... AND YOUR LAST, I HOPE!
H-HEY! L-LOOK WHAT CLIMBED OUTTA THAT CAR...
THE LAW, BOYS! A NEAT LAYOUT YOU'VE GOT HERE... BUT ALL IT'S GOING TO GET YOU IS A JOB MAKING LICENSE PLATES UP-STATE, IN PRISON!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, COPPER! WE'LL STILL BE DEALING IN HOT CARS AFTER YOU'RE MEASURED FOR A PINE SUIT!
H-HUH? DON'T BE A FOOL...!
OOOOF!
ON THE DOUBLE, BOYS! SWARM ALL OVER THIS LOUSY COP...

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

AGHHHHH!
PRETTY NEAT, COP... BUT IT ISN'T GONNA HELP YOU! THE LAW'LL NEVER FIND OUT ABOUT THIS LAYOUT FROM YOU!
M-MIKE! A CAR UP HERE... THEY DROVE IN RIGHT BEHIND PETE AND I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO CLOSE THE SECRET PANEL! IT'S FULL OF...
P. POLICE!
WITH PLENTY OF AMMO, BOYS... AND ITCHY FINGERS! NICE AND OBLIGING FOR YOU TO LEAVE THAT SECRET PANEL OPEN, SO WE DIDN'T HAVE TO GO OVER THIS PLACE WITH A FINE-TOOTH COMB, THEN SMASH IT OPEN!
Y-YOU'LL NEVER STOP ME! ONCE I GET INTO ONE OF THESE HEAPS, I'LL DRIVE RIGHT THROUGH YOU!
YOU'VE GOT DELUSIONS, MISTER! YOU'RE NOT GOING ANY PLACE...
THIS BENDING IS KILLING ME! THREE DAYS CRAMPED IN THAT TRUNK CASE HAVE MADE A CRIPPLE OF ME...
NOT A BAD HAYMAKER FOR A CRIPPLE, STEVE! WE FOLLOWED AS SOON AS WE SAW THE CAR BEING DRIVEN AWAY BY ONE OF THESE JOKERS! WE MIGHT AS WELL LOAD THEM IN THE STOLEN AUTOS AND DELIVER THEM TO HEADQUARTERS - THEN START RETURNING THE HOT CARS!
...EXCEPT TO THE CANVAS, FOR A TEN-COUNT!
G-GET OUTTA MY
ARGHHH!
THAT FINISHED THE HOT CAR RACKET! FOR A WHILE, ANYWAY! BUT IT WILL KEEP CROPPING UP WHENEVER YOU ARE CARELESS ABOUT NOT LOCKING UP... OR FALLING FOR "FREE" OFFERS FROM PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW!
THE END

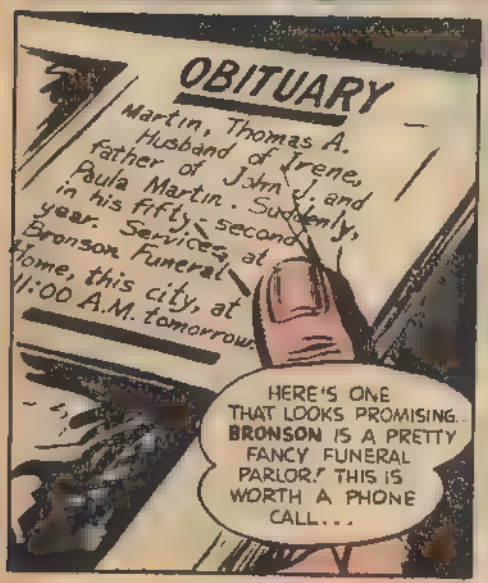
CLINT BERNARD KNEW HE HAD A "LIVE WIRE" SWINDLE WHEN THE MONEY BEGAN TO POUR IN FROM...

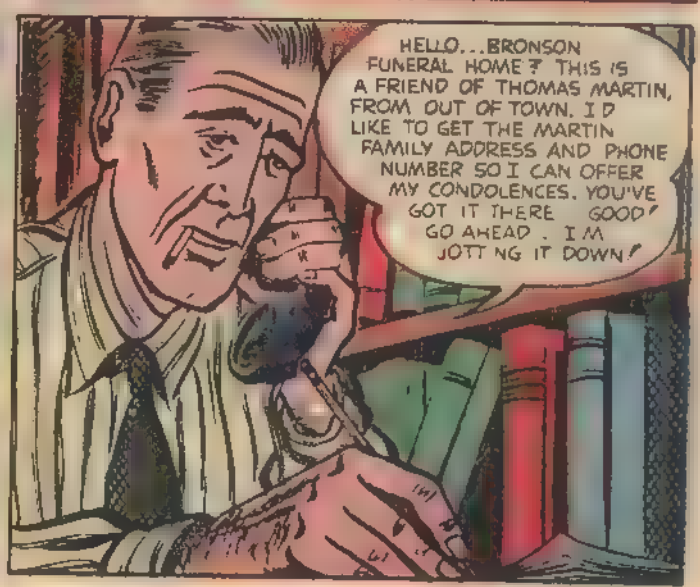
The DEATH NOTICE Rracket


ONE COPY OF EACH OF TODAY'S PAPERS, SIR? YOU SURE MUST BE A GLUTTON FOR BAD NEWS, READING ALL OF THEM EVERY DAY LIKE YOU DO!
IT'S JUST THAT I LIKE TO KEEP TRACK OF DEVELOPMENTS.. SPECIALLY THE GRAVE NEWS IN THE PAPER! HERE FOR YOUR TROUBLE IN SETTING THE PAPERS ASIDE FOR ME! KEEP THE CHANGE!

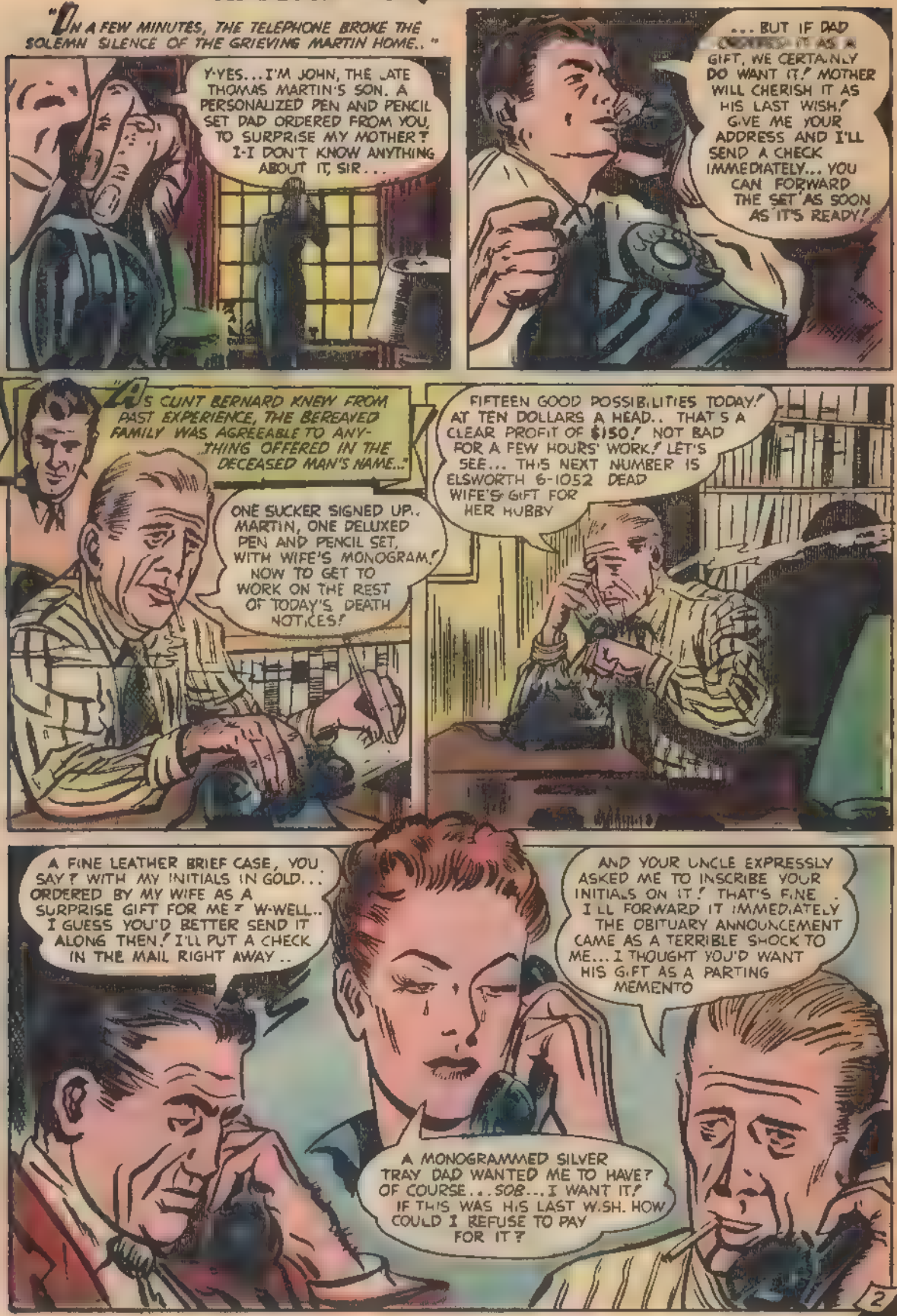
IN THE ROOM FROM WHICH HE OPERATED, CLINT BERNARD WENT TO WORK SURVEYING THE GRAVE NEWS HE FOUND SO ATTRACTIVE.."
LET THE SUCKERS READ THE FRONT PAGE HEADLINES. OR THE COMICS OR SPORT PAGES! NO MONEY IN THAT STUFF! WHAT I LOOK FOR MEANS DOUGH... AND PLENTY OF IT!

GOT TO PAT MYSELF ON THE BACK FOR DREAMING UP THIS LITTLE SWINDLE! WHO ELSE WOULD THINK THERE WAS SO MUCH MONEY IN THE DEATH NOTICES?


OBITUARY
Martin, Thomas A. Husband of Irene, father of John J. and Paula Martin. Suddenly, in his fifty-second year. Services at Bronson Funeral Home, this city, at 11:00 A.M. tomorrow.
HERE'S ONE THAT LOOKS PROMISING. BRONSON IS A PRETTY FANCY FUNERAL PARLOR! THIS IS WORTH A PHONE CALL...

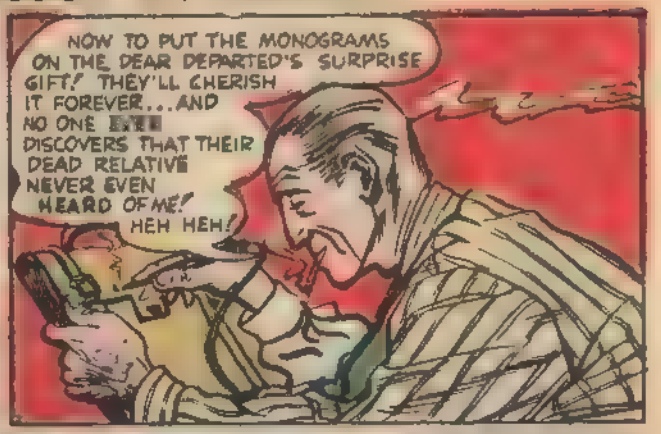

HELLO...BRONSON FUNERAL HOME? THIS IS A FRIEND OF THOMAS MARTIN, FROM OUT OF TOWN. I'D LIKE TO GET THE MARTIN FAMILY ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER SO I CAN OFFER MY CONDOLENCES. YOU'VE GOT IT THERE GOOD! GO AHEAD. I'M JOTTING IT DOWN!

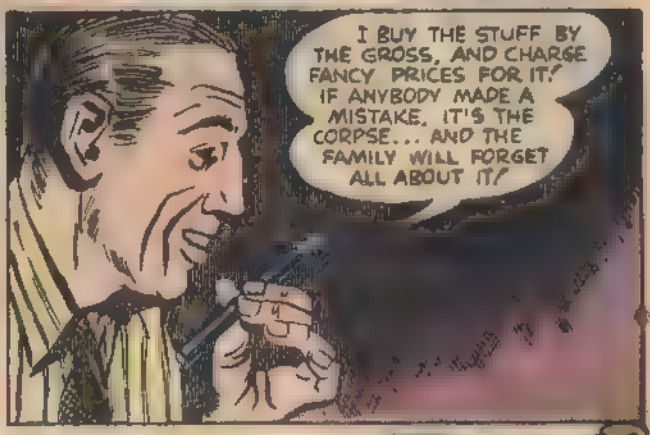
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

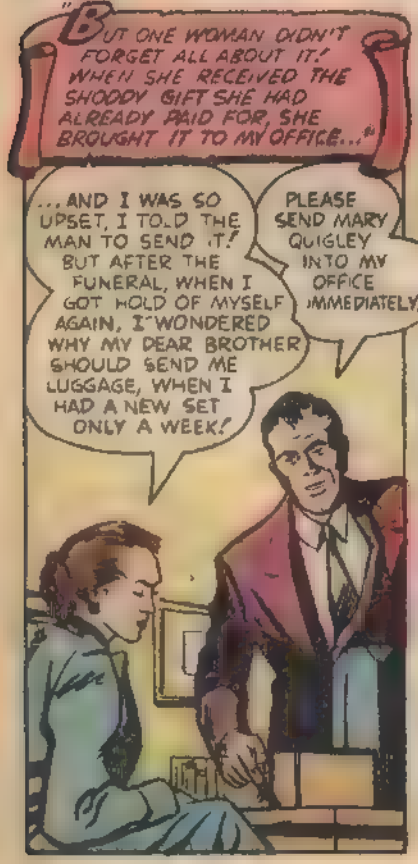

"IN A FEW MINUTES, THE TELEPHONE BROKE THE SOLEMN SILENCE OF THE GRIEVING MARTIN HOME.."
Y-YES...I'M JOHN, THE LATE THOMAS MARTIN'S SON. A PERSONALIZED PEN AND PENCIL SET DAD ORDERED FROM YOU, TO SURPRISE MY MOTHER? I-I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT, SIR...
... BUT IF DAD ORDERED IT AS A GIFT, WE CERTAINLY DO WANT IT! MOTHER WILL CHERISH IT AS HIS LAST WISH! GIVE ME YOUR ADDRESS AND I'LL SEND A CHECK IMMEDIATELY... YOU CAN FORWARD THE SET AS SOON AS IT'S READY!
"AS CUNT BERNARD KNEW FROM PAST EXPERIENCE, THE BEREAVED FAMILY WAS AGREEABLE TO ANY-THING OFFERED IN THE DECEASED MAN'S NAME.."
ONE SUCKER SIGNED UP.. MARTIN, ONE DELUXED PEN AND PENCIL SET, WITH WIFE'S MONOGRAM! NOW TO GET TO WORK ON THE REST OF TODAY'S DEATH NOTICES!
FIFTEEN GOOD POSSIBILITIES TODAY! AT TEN DOLLARS A HEAD.. THAT'S A CLEAR PROFIT OF $150! NOT BAD FOR A FEW HOURS' WORK! LET'S SEE... THIS NEXT NUMBER IS ELSWORTH 6-1052 DEAD WIFE'S GIFT FOR HER HUBBY
A FINE LEATHER BRIEF CASE, YOU SAY? WITH MY INITIALS IN GOLD... ORDERED BY MY WIFE AS A SURPRISE GIFT FOR ME? W-WELL.. I GUESS YOU'D BETTER SEND IT ALONG THEN! I'LL PUT A CHECK IN THE MAIL RIGHT AWAY..
AND YOUR UNCLE EXPRESSLY ASKED ME TO INSCRIBE YOUR INITIALS ON IT! THAT'S FINE . I'LL FORWARD IT IMMEDIATELY THE OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENT CAME AS A TERRIBLE SHOCK TO ME... I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT HIS GIFT AS A PARTING MEMENTO
A MONOGRAMMED SILVER TRAY DAD WANTED ME TO HAVE? OF COURSE...SOB... I WANT IT! IF THIS WAS HIS LAST W.SH. HOW COULD I REFUSE TO PAY FOR IT?

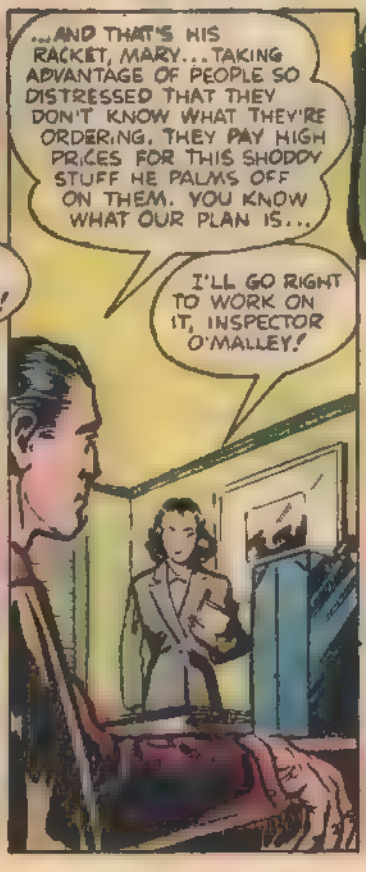
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

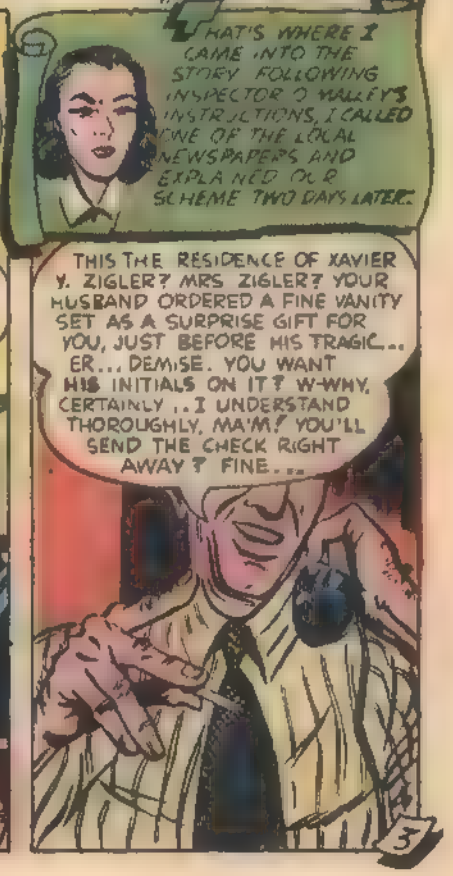
HEH HEH! WHAT A HAUL I'M GOING TO MAKE TODAY! NOT ONE OF THE SENTIMENTAL BOOBS QUESTIONED THAT THEIR RELATIVES HAD PLACED AN ORDER WITH ME... NOT ONE WAS SURPRISED AT THE PRICES I ASKED!


NOW TO PUT THE MONOGRAMS ON THE DEAR DEPARTED'S SURPRISE GIFT! THEY'LL CHERISH IT FOREVER...AND NO ONE EVER DISCOVERS THAT THEIR DEAD RELATIVE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF ME! HEH HEH!


I BUY THE STUFF BY THE GROSS, AND CHARGE FANCY PRICES FOR IT! IF ANYBODY MADE A MISTAKE, IT'S THE CORPSE... AND THE FAMILY WILL FORGET ALL ABOUT IT!


"BUT ONE WOMAN DIDN'T FORGET ALL ABOUT IT! WHEN SHE RECEIVED THE SHODDY GIFT SHE HAD ALREADY PAID FOR, SHE BROUGHT IT TO MY OFFICE..."
...AND I WAS SO UPSET, I TOLD THE MAN TO SEND IT! BUT AFTER THE FUNERAL, WHEN I GOT HOLD OF MYSELF AGAIN, I WONDERED WHY MY DEAR BROTHER SHOULD SEND ME LUGGAGE, WHEN I HAD A NEW SET ONLY A WEEK!
PLEASE SEND MARY QUIGLEY INTO MY OFFICE IMMEDIATELY!


...AND THAT'S HIS RACKET, MARY...TAKING ADVANTAGE OF PEOPLE SO DISTRESSED THAT THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE ORDERING. THEY PAY HIGH PRICES FOR THIS SHODDY STUFF HE PALMS OFF ON THEM. YOU KNOW WHAT OUR PLAN IS...
I'LL GO RIGHT TO WORK ON IT, INSPECTOR O'MALLEY!


"THAT'S WHERE I CAME INTO THE STORY FOLLOWING INSPECTOR O'MALLEY'S INSTRUCTIONS, I CALLED ONE OF THE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS AND EXPLAINED OUR SCHEME TWO DAYS LATER:
THIS THE RESIDENCE OF XAVIER Y. ZIGLER? MRS ZIGLER? YOUR HUSBAND ORDERED A FINE VANITY SET AS A SURPRISE GIFT FOR YOU, JUST BEFORE HIS TRAGIC... ER... DEMISE. YOU WANT HIS INITIALS ON IT? W-WHY, CERTAINLY..I UNDERSTAND THOROUGHLY, MA'M! YOU'LL SEND THE CHECK RIGHT AWAY? FINE...

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

AT THAT MOMENT, ON THE OTHER END OF THE LINE . . .
ALL I CAN GET OUT OF HIM IS A POST OFFICE BOX NUMBER, INSPECTOR. . .
JUST KEEP TALKING TO HIM, MARY. HIS CALL IS BEING TRACED RIGHT NOW! WE'LL HAVE HIS ADDRESS IN ANOTHER FEW MOMENTS!
AH! HERE IT IS! 62 RADCLIFF DRIVE... APARTMENT 5-J! ALL RIGHT, MARY... YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!
I'M ON MY WAY TO THE KILL INSPECTOR!
"I HURRIED TO RADCLIFF DRIVE WITH ALL POSSIBLE SPEED. I WAS MET AT THE DOOR BY A BEWILDERED TENANT..."
M-MRS ZIGLER, YOU SAY? B-BUT... I DON'T UNDERSTAND, LADY
I RUSHED RIGHT OVER TO SEE XAVIER'S GIFT BEFORE I PAID FOR IT! I'VE BEEN READING ABOUT SO MANY SWINDLES LATELY...
S-SWINDLE? I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU RE TALKING ABOUT, MA'M! THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE... I NEVER HEARD OF ANY XAVIER ZIGLER!
THERE'S THE VANITY SET WITH THE INITIALS XYZ ALREADY INSCRIBED ON IT! DON'T TELL ME YOU HAVE ANOTHER CUSTOMER WITH THE MONOGRAM XYZ?
THAT WOULD BE A MIGHTY STRANGE COINCIDENCE... TWO PEOPLE WITH THE ODD INITIALS XYZ! I DON'T THINK ANY COURT WOULD BELIEVE IT!
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO BARGE IN HERE, LADY! GET OUT IMMEDIATELY. BEFORE I CALL THE POLICE!
AT YOUR SERVICE, MISTER!
WE BELIEVE IN FAST ANSWERS TO CALLS FOR HELP! AND FAST JUDGMENT ON CRUMBS WHO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PEOPLE DEVASTATED BY DEATH IN THE FAMILY! THIS STUFF WILL MAKE MIGHTY NICE EVIDENCE AGAINST YOU... AND YOUR TOOLS WILL HELP YOU PUT YOUR INITIALS ON THE CELL YOU'RE GOING TO INHABIT FOR FRAUD!
THE END

EVEN A SKILLED CARD SHARP.. WHEN FACED WITH AN ALERT VICTIM..CANNOT ALWAYS...

CUT the ACE!

WHILE WE'RE WAITING FOR THE BOYS TO SHOW UP FOR OUR POKER SESSION.. HOW ABOUT YOU AND ME MAKING A FRIENDLY LITTLE WAGER? JUST TO SHOW YOU HOW QUICK I CAN BE WITH A DECK OF CARDS...
WHAT'VE YOU GOT IN MIND?
TAKE THE DECK...YOUR OWN CARDS..AND RIFFLE THEM! I'LL BET YOU FIVE DOLLARS THAT I CUT AN ACE OF SPADES ON MY VERY FIRST CHANCE!
HMM ..THAT'S A BET!
JUST TO MAKE IT TOUGHER FOR MYSELF.. I'LL TURN AROUND WHILE YOU MIX THE DECK! DO ANYTHING YOU WANT WITH IT!
ANYTHING, EH?
YOU'VE MIXED THE DECK... NOW I WILL PROCEED TO CUT THE ACE OF SPADES! ON MY FIRST TRY!
JOB'S DONE... ACE IS CUT NEATLY IN HALF! THAT'LL BE FIVE DOLLARS, SUCKER!
YOU SHOULDN'T TURN YOUR BACK ON A VICTIM, FRIEND...
...AND GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO SLIP THE ACE OF SPADES FROM THE DECK! THAT'LL BE FIVE DOLLARS YOU OWE ME!
JOHN BELFI

THE OTHER 10 PERCENT

At election time, Mayor John Hendricks was a very pleasant and jolly man. He would kiss all the babies in the neighborhood. He'd pose with bathing beauties. But now he was tough and harsh as he spoke to his police commissioner.

"I don't want excuses. I want results. If you can't get them, then I can always get myself a new police commissioner. Am I plain in what I say?"

Nelson Oring was getting hot under the collar but he controlled himself for one very simple reason. He knew the Mayor was right. But he did try to make an excuse.

"We recover ninety percent of the cars stolen in this city. That is a very high average compared to the rest of the nation."

"But what about the other ten percent?" snapped back the Mayor. "They didn't vanish into thin air. This car stealing operation has every indication of being a highly organized racket. You will notice that the missing ten percent consist of Cadillacs, Packards, Oldsmobiles, and other highly priced cars. All of sports type. Who is stealing them? And where do they go? You have my permission to offer a spot promotion to the man or men on your force who can break this case. Now go and get me results."

As the police commissioner left the office, the Mayor's secretary, Peter Rawford entered. If ever a man looked high society, it was this secretary. With his immaculately groomed hair, perfectly tailored blue suit, piercing black eyes and slight Oxford accent, he could handle anything or anybody.

"There were two reporters here this morning," he began. "Wanted a statement about what you are doing to recover those stolen cars. I told them you had devised a secret plan which couldn't be revealed at present to the papers. They were satisfied and left."

"Well done," complimented the Mayor. "I like the way you handle things."

Young Adolph Grossman was so mad that for a moment it seemed he would break a blood vessel. He complained bitterly to the officer on the beat.

"I parked my car here half an hour ago. Now look at it! Almost a complete wreck. Some hit and run truck bumped into it and did a perfect job. I just bought this sport car last week."

Suddenly a towing car stopped at the curb and the driver got out and spoke.

"We'll tow the car in for you mister. Only five bucks. If it can be fixed we'll give you an estimate. Otherwise buy it for junk."

Patrolman Roderick M. Mitchell was having a cup of coffee with his buddy, Detective Leo Baker, in the diner.

"Coincidence is a funny thing, Leo," remarked the police officer. "Three times this month I get complaints about hit and run drivers who smash up sport cars. All new models. And always the same towing service. Gus' Reliable Tow Service is on the scene."

"Could be more than a coincidence," answered the detective. "The police commissioner has informed the boys there is a spot promotion for anyone who finds out who is stealing those new cars. I can get you a plain clothes assignment with me. We'll both do a little investigation about Gus' Reliable Tow Service."

Gus Forde looked at the two men who had just entered his garage on Main and Semple Streets. Detective Leo Baker flashed his badge.

"Anything wrong, officers?" asked Gus in a calm voice. He could afford to take it easy. For behind the door to the left, Peter Rawford was watching every move. He held an automatic in each hand, ready to go into action if necessary.

"No," replied Detective Leo Baker. "You

purchased a car from an Adolph Grossman. It was smashed by some hit and run driver. Inside the glove compartment was an honorary police badge which belonged to Mr. Grossman. The badge and its privileges have been revoked. We just want the badge. So just take us to the car and let us get it."

"I don't have the car," replied Gus who was stalling for time to think.

"Then whoever has the car is our baby," replied the detective. "We'll visit the new owner and get the badge from him. Anyone who bought that heap of junk must be crazy."

"I don't mean exactly I haven't got it," replied Gus. "What I mean is that the car has now been completely rebuilt. Almost like new. Come with me upstairs and we'll see if the badge is there."

As the three men entered the elevator and started going up, Peter Rawford spoke on the garage phone.

"Listen carefully to what I say Joe. Gus is coming up with two officers. They may suspect something and just be playing dumb. Or they may not suspect a thing. Drop the fake brick wall at once. The only car they are to see is the sport car with the blue paint job. If necessary kill both men. We can get rid of the bodies."

The glove compartment of the sports car proved to be empty. Roderick Mitchell couldn't help admiring the car.

"You certainly did a wonderful job in rebuilding this car. Looks almost new to me. I'd like to buy it."

"Stop your kidding. You don't have that kind of dough. This car will set you back four thousand."

"I'll take it," was the unexpected reply. "Just give me the bill of sale."

Gus went over to a small desk and soon returned with the document.

"Put up or shut up," he said. He was more than anxious to get rid of the two officers. He was certain now they were on to the racket.

Roderick Mitchell handed the bill of sale to his buddy.

"The serial number is A238-986C. I want to check the motor." He opened the hood and looked carefully. That was the serial number on the motor. Evidently the car had been rebuilt.

Meanwhile downstairs a large truck was backing into the place. As soon as it was inside the driver got out of his cab and spoke to Peter Rawford.

"Three more cars and then we are finished with this shipment."

"We may be finished this very minute," was the unexpected reply of a worried man. "There are two detectives upstairs. I'm not going to take a chance. I'll call Joe on the phone and tell him to kill them both. We'll put their bodies in the truck and dump them into the ocean."

"But suppose the police come again to check on this place. What then?"

"We are moving operations to another city. I'll burn this place down to the ground. It has served its purpose."

Detective Leo Baker sat in the driver's seat of the car and imagined for a moment he owned it. His eyes hit the rear view mirror and he saw a man standing in a small doorway with a gun. The fellow was getting an aim. There was but one shot and the man in the doorway went down in a heap. Gus went for a small gun he had but never made it. A crack in the jaw sent him reeling to the floor. He was disarmed and handcuffed. The man in the doorway was dead. It was a perfect shot.

"So you thought you would finish us off. Start talking quick before I get really mad."

Downstairs the one shot had been heard. Peter Rawford did some quick thinking.

"Something went wrong. We can't take a chance. The boat will have to sail without those extra cars. Get out with the truck. I'll cut the power line to the lift. Then start the time switch. In ten minutes the place will start burning. Let's go."

The two officers took their prisoner into the elevator but it didn't move. Gus knew what happened.

"That dirty rat figured to kill all of us. He must have beat it out. He rigged up an apparatus in the office that sets off two sticks of dynamite. And there are three barrels of fuel oil around it. I don't want to die."

Detective Leo Baker's mind raced a mile a minute. He looked at the fire hose and saw their salvation.

"There's enough of that hose to reach the main floor. We simply slide down it."

"It was a clever scheme," explained the police commissioner to the mayor. "But my two best men cracked it. The gang would smash up a car. They'd have Gus buy it. Then steal a duplicate car. They had a bill of sale. Then they changed the serial number on the stolen car to correspond with the number on the bill of sale. The cars were sold to legitimate dealers in South America."

Peter Rawford was nervous as the police commissioner eyed him.

"You might have at least cleaned your shoes. The oil on the sides gives you away."

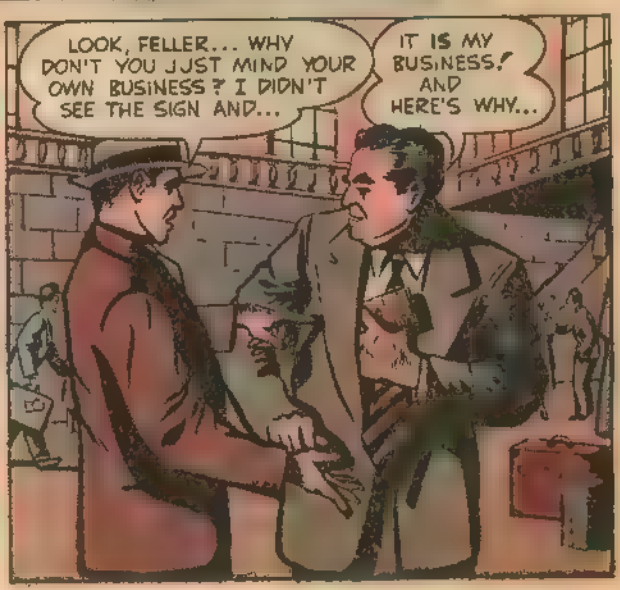
Peter made a dash for the door. Right into the arms of the two police officers who beforehand knew their man from a complete confession given by Gus.

The End

SAM LEAR WAS ONE OF THE CITY'S MOST ALERT WATCH-DOGS WHEN IT CAME TO NABBING LAWBREAKERS IN TRAIN AND BUS TERMINALS. THE ARRESTS, THOUGH, LED NOT TO JAIL BUT TO...

HUSH MONEY

HEY! W-WHATTA YOU WANT?
DON'T PLAY DUMB, MISTER! THAT CIGARETTE IN YOUR MOUTH.. T'S AGAINST THE LAW IN THIS TRAIN TERMINAL!
NO SMOKING

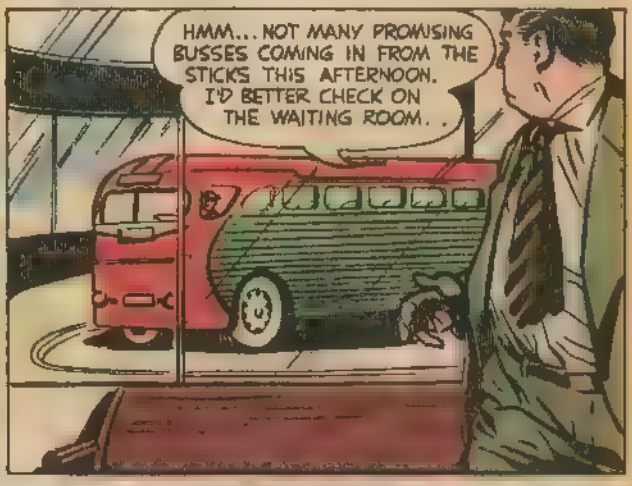


RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

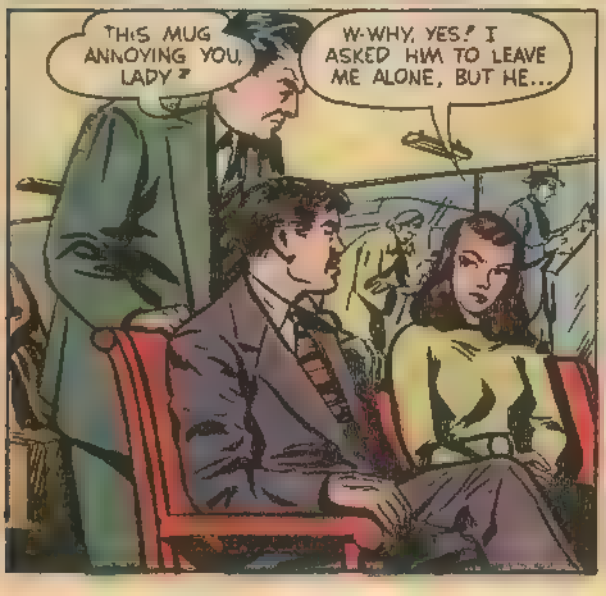
A C-COP, EH? LOOK, OFFICER. .I HONESTLY DIDN'T SEE THAT SIGN! IT'S SO SMALL. . AND KINDA HIDDEN AND...
A LITTLE OVERSIGHT THAT MEANS A SUMMONS, MISTER! AND A CHOICE OF A 25 DOLLAR FINE OR 10 DAYS IN JAIL!
C-CAN'T WE SETTLE THIS THING BETWEEN OURSELVES? A FIVER MIGHT STRAIGHTEN IT OUT, HUH?
YOU WOULDN'T BE TRYING TO BRIBE AN OFFICER, WOULD YOU? WE'D BETTER STEP OVER HERE...
HOW ABOUT A TEN-SPOT? I'VE NEVER BEEN PINCHED BEFORE, AND MY WIFE .
TWENTY DOLLARS SEEMS MORE LIKE IT! DON T YOU AGREE?
Y-YEAH.. WHATEVER YOU SAY, OFFICER!
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! IT S GOT TO BE ENOUGH TO MAKE ME FORGET MY DUTY... JUST FOR THIS ONCE, OF COURSE!
T-THANKS, OFFICER .. THANKS A LOT!
JUST WATCH THAT SMOKING NEXT TIME, STRANGER! ONE PUFF HERE IN THE TERMINAL.. AND I'LL RUN YOU IN!
NOT BAD FOR FIVE MINUTES WORK! I THINK I'LL STROLL BY THE BUS TERMINAL NOW JUST FOR A CHANGE OF SCENERY! AND TO KEEP FROM BEING SPOTTED BY ANY SHARP-EYED FLATFEET WHO MIGHT BE NOSING AROUND HERE!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

AT THE BUS TERMINAL, THE SELF-PROCLAIMED GUARDIAN OF THE LAW LOOKED OVER HIS PROSPECTS CAREFULLY...



WHAT'S THE MATTER, BABY? A STRANGER HERE IN TOWN? I COULD SHOW YOU ALL THE HIGH SPOTS..
LEAVE ME ALONE, WILL YOU? I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO CALL A COP...
CANDY



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

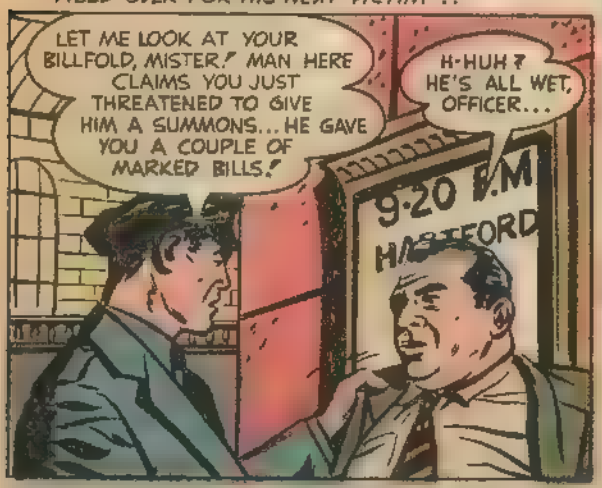
...THE POLICE DEPARTMENT! COME ON, LET'S GO FOR A LITTLE WALK TO THE PRECINCT HOUSE!
AW, OFFICER. I WAS ONLY KIDDING! JUST A GAG, SEE?
TOWARD THE NEAREST PRECINCT HOUSE SAM LEAR STEERED HIS LATEST CUSTOMER...
AS SOON AS THIS CRUMB SPOTS POLICE HEADQUARTERS, HE'LL THINK I MEAN BUSINESS... AND START COUGHING UP THE HUSH MONEY! IT WORKS 99 TIMES OUT OF 100!
NO LOUSY COP IS GONNA RUN ME IN! I'M NO SCHOOL KID YOU CAN PUSH AROUND...
W-WHAT THE...?
YOU'VE GOT BIG IDEAS, HAVEN'T YOU... JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE ABLE TO STRONG ARM A GIRL IN A BUS TERMINAL YOU THINK YOU'RE A REAL TOUGH GUY!
GHHH!
CRASH!
TRYING TO MANHANDLE AN OFFICER, EH? I THINK I'LL GIVE YOU A GOING-OVER BEFORE I RUN YOU IN! THIS GUN YOU'VE GOT... I'LL BET THERE'S NO PERMIT FOR IT! THERE'S A NICE PRISON TERM STARING YOU IN THE FACE, BUSTER!
WOW! OVER A GRAND IN THIS MUG'S WALLET! AND THE JERK THINKS I DON'T SEE HIM EDGING TOWARD THE STREET FOR A GETAWAY! HEH HEH! LET HIM RUN... AND LEAVE ME WITH HIS BANKROLL!
4

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

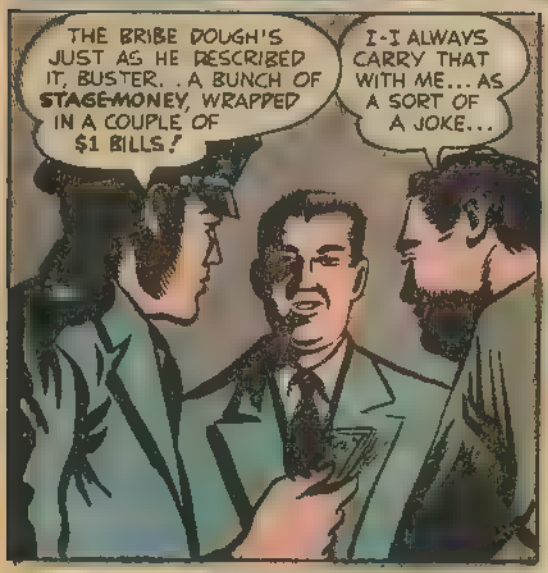
HO HO! LOOK AT THAT SAP RUNNING FOR IT! PROBABLY GOT A RECORD AS LONG AS MY ARM... SCARED TO DEATH OF ANOTHER ARREST! BUT BRINGING IN THUGS ISN'T MY RACKET... LET THE COPS WORRY ABOUT THAT! DOUGH'S ALL I'M INTERESTED IN!
ONE OF THE BIGGEST HAULS I'VE MADE! AND IT'S SAFER EVEN THAN MY USUAL SWINDLE, 'CAUSE THIS CUSTOMER'LL NEVER OPEN HIS YAP! DOWN THE HATCH, NOW, WITH THE SUCKER'S EMPTY WALLET AND GUN!
IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, SAM LEAR WORKED HIS HUSH MONEY RACKET WITH GREAT SUCCESS... EXTORTING MONEY OVER AND OVER AGAIN FROM VICTIMS WHO THOUGHT IT CHEAPER TO BRIBE THEIR WAY FREE THAN CHALLENGE THE BOGUS COP..
OH, OH! ANOTHER SUCKER... LOOKS LIKE A HAYSEED WHO MIGHT BE LOADED WITH DOUGH! HERE GOES...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MISTER.. CAN'T YOU READ?
T-THAT SIGN... MUST BE SOMETHING NEW SINCE LAST TIME I WAS IN TOWN!
NO SMOKIN
SMOKING'S AN OFFENSE HERE, MISTER! $25 OR 10 DAYS IN THE CLINK!
A PLAINCLOTHESMAN, EH? LLOOK, OFFICER... HOW ABOUT MY GIVING YOU THE $25? JUST TO KEEP MY NAME OFF THE POLICE BLOTTER?
IT'S GETTING EASIER EVERY DAY! I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO LEAD 'EM INTO BRIBING ME ANYMORE! HIS ONLY WORRY WAS WHETHER OR NOT I'D MIND TAKING IT IN $1 BILLS! HEH HEH! WHAT HE DOESN'T KNOW IS THAT I'D TAKE THE BRIBE IN GROCERIES!
NO SMOKI

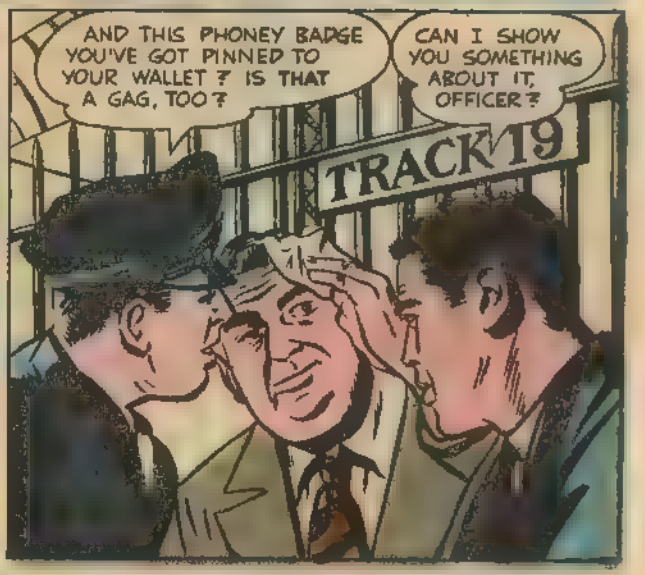
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

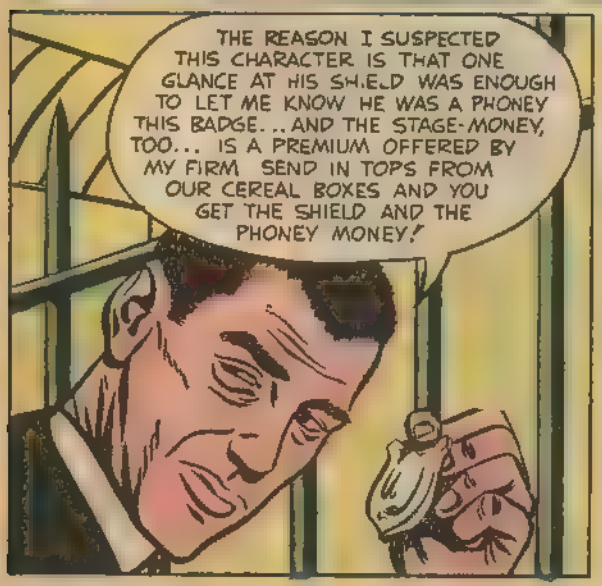
A FEW MINUTES LATER, WHILE SAM LEAR STOOD IN THE TRAIN TERMINAL AND LOOKED THE FIELD OVER FOR HIS NEXT VICTIM ..

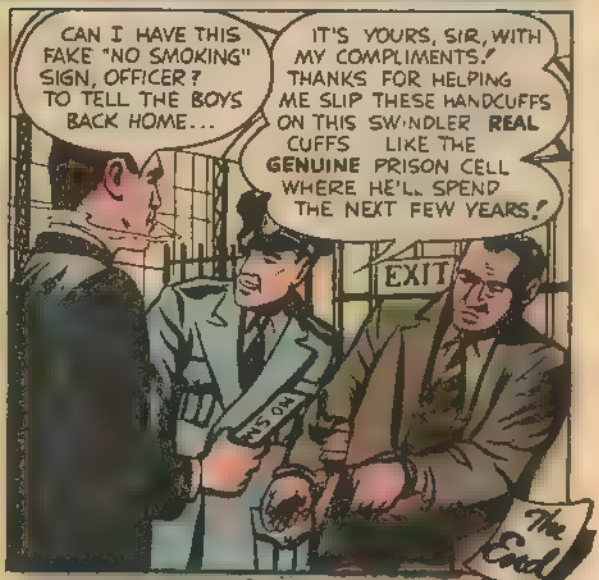

LET ME LOOK AT YOUR BILLFOLD, MISTER! MAN HERE CLAIMS YOU JUST THREATENED TO GIVE HIM A SUMMONS... HE GAVE YOU A COUPLE OF MARKED BILLS!
H-HUH? HE'S ALL WET, OFFICER...
9:20 P.M.

I NEVER SAW THIS GUY BEFORE! I WAS JUST STANDING HERE WAITING FOR A FRIEND'S TRAIN TO PULL IN! I COULD SUE THIS GUY FOR FALSE ARREST...
HOLD UP THE LAW SUIT UNTIL I LOOK AT YOUR WALLET, WILL YOU?


THE BRIBE DOUGH'S JUST AS HE DESCRIBED IT, BUSTER. . A BUNCH OF STAGE-MONEY, WRAPPED IN A COUPLE OF $1 BILLS!
I-I ALWAYS CARRY THAT WITH ME... AS A SORT OF A JOKE...




THE REASON I SUSPECTED THIS CHARACTER IS THAT ONE GLANCE AT HIS SHIELD WAS ENOUGH TO LET ME KNOW HE WAS A PHONEY THIS BADGE.. AND THE STAGE-MONEY, TOO... IS A PREMIUM OFFERED BY MY FIRM SEND IN TOPS FROM OUR CEREAL BOXES AND YOU GET THE SHIELD AND THE PHONEY MONEY!


CAN I HAVE THIS FAKE "NO SMOKING" SIGN, OFFICER? TO TELL THE BOYS BACK HOME...
IT'S YOURS, SIR, WITH MY COMPLIMENTS! THANKS FOR HELPING ME SLIP THESE HANDCUFFS ON THIS SWINDLER REAL CUFFS LIKE THE GENUINE PRISON CELL WHERE HE'LL SPEND THE NEXT FEW YEARS!
EXIT
The End

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WAIT FOR TRAGEDY TO STRIKE IN ORDER TO PROSPER FROM THE ANGUISH OF OTHERS. SUCH A CASE BROUGHT INSPECTOR J.J. O'MALLEY INTO CONTACT WITH...

The Misery Chiselers

W-WHAT DOES THE N-NOTE SAY, SAM?

"WE HAVE YOUR SON. AT THE MOMENT HE IS SAFE, BUT IF YOU FAIL TO PAY $5,000 YOU WILL NEVER AGAIN SEE HIM ALIVE! EXACT INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE SENT IN OUR NEXT LETTER..."

SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY IS REPORTED MISSING... AND A DAY LATER YOU RECEIVE A RANSOM NOTE. YOU ARE WARNED AGAINST NOTIFYING THE POLICE, LEST YOU BRING INSTANT DEATH TO THE "KIDNAP" VICTIM. WHAT WOULD YOU DO IN SUCH A SITUATION?

THIS WAS THE DESPERATE PROBLEM FACING THE CROWELL FAMILY... AND THIS IS WHAT THEY DID...

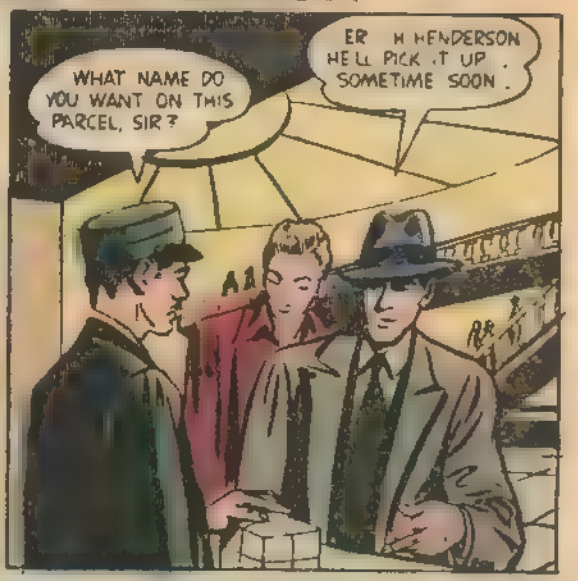
I'LL SELL THE CAR IMMEDIATELY... AND G-GET A LOAN FROM THE BANK. WE'LL HAVE TO GO INTO HOCK FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES TO RAISE THAT MONEY...

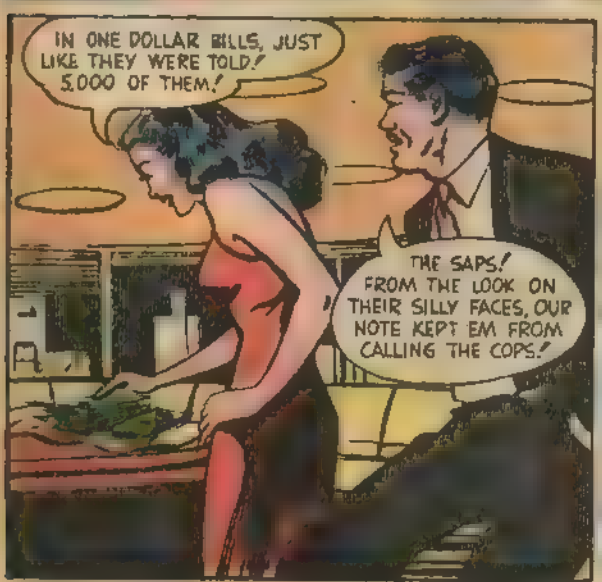
W-WAIT, SAM...

T-TAKE MY WEDDING RING! I WOULDN'T WANT TO GO ON LIVING ANYWAY, IF THEY KILLED OUR BILLY...

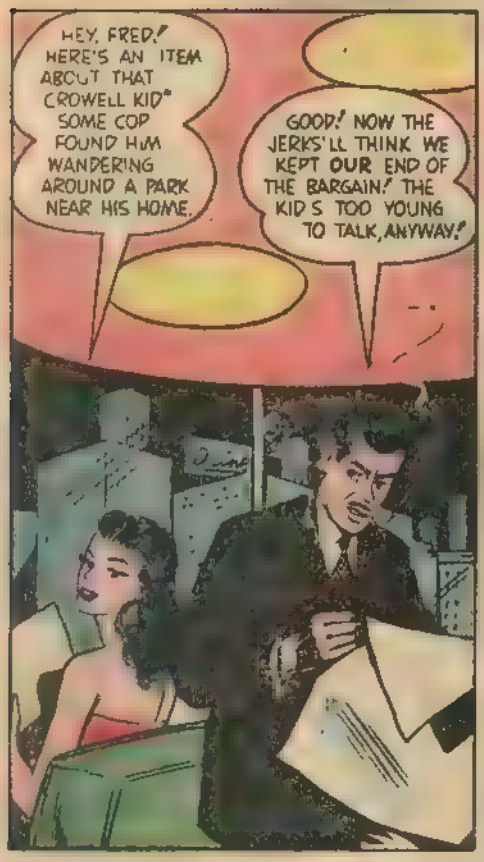
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

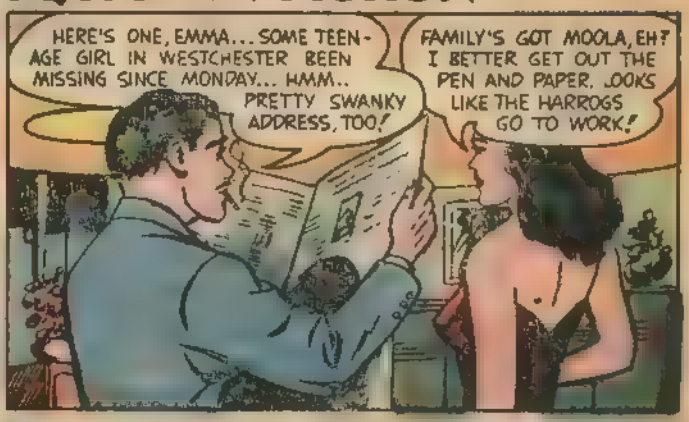
THE NEXT DAY, IN GRAND TERMINAL THE FRIGHTENED CROWELLS DID AS THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED...
T-THIS IS THE PLACE THE LAST LETTER MENTIONED...
PARCEL CHECKING
THEY CAN HAVE THE MONEY. IF ONLY THEY HAVEN'T H-HARMED OUR BABY!

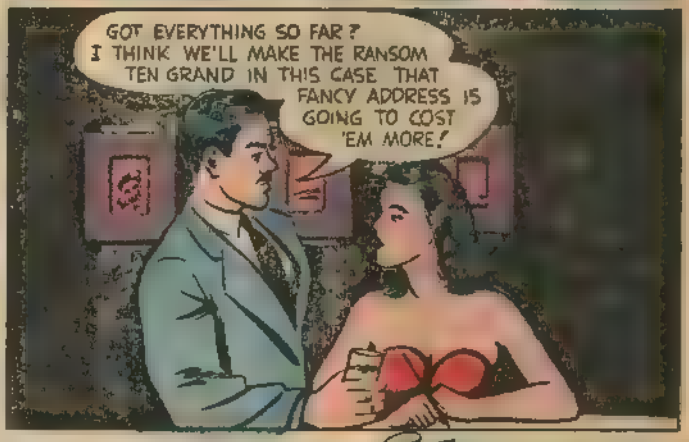



IN ONE DOLLAR BILLS, JUST LIKE THEY WERE TOLD! 5,000 OF THEM!
THE SAPS! FROM THE LOOK ON THEIR SILLY FACES, OUR NOTE KEPT EM FROM CALLING THE COPS!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION


HEY, FRED! HERE'S AN ITEM ABOUT THAT CROWELL KID* SOME COP FOUND HIM WANDERING AROUND A PARK NEAR HIS HOME.
GOOD! NOW THE JERKS'LL THINK WE KEPT OUR END OF THE BARGAIN! THE KID'S TOO YOUNG TO TALK, ANYWAY!


HERE'S ONE, EMMA... SOME TEEN-AGE GIRL IN WESTCHESTER BEEN MISSING SINCE MONDAY... HMM.. PRETTY SWANKY ADDRESS, TOO!
FAMILY'S GOT MOOLA, EH? I BETTER GET OUT THE PEN AND PAPER. LOOKS LIKE THE HARROGS GO TO WORK!

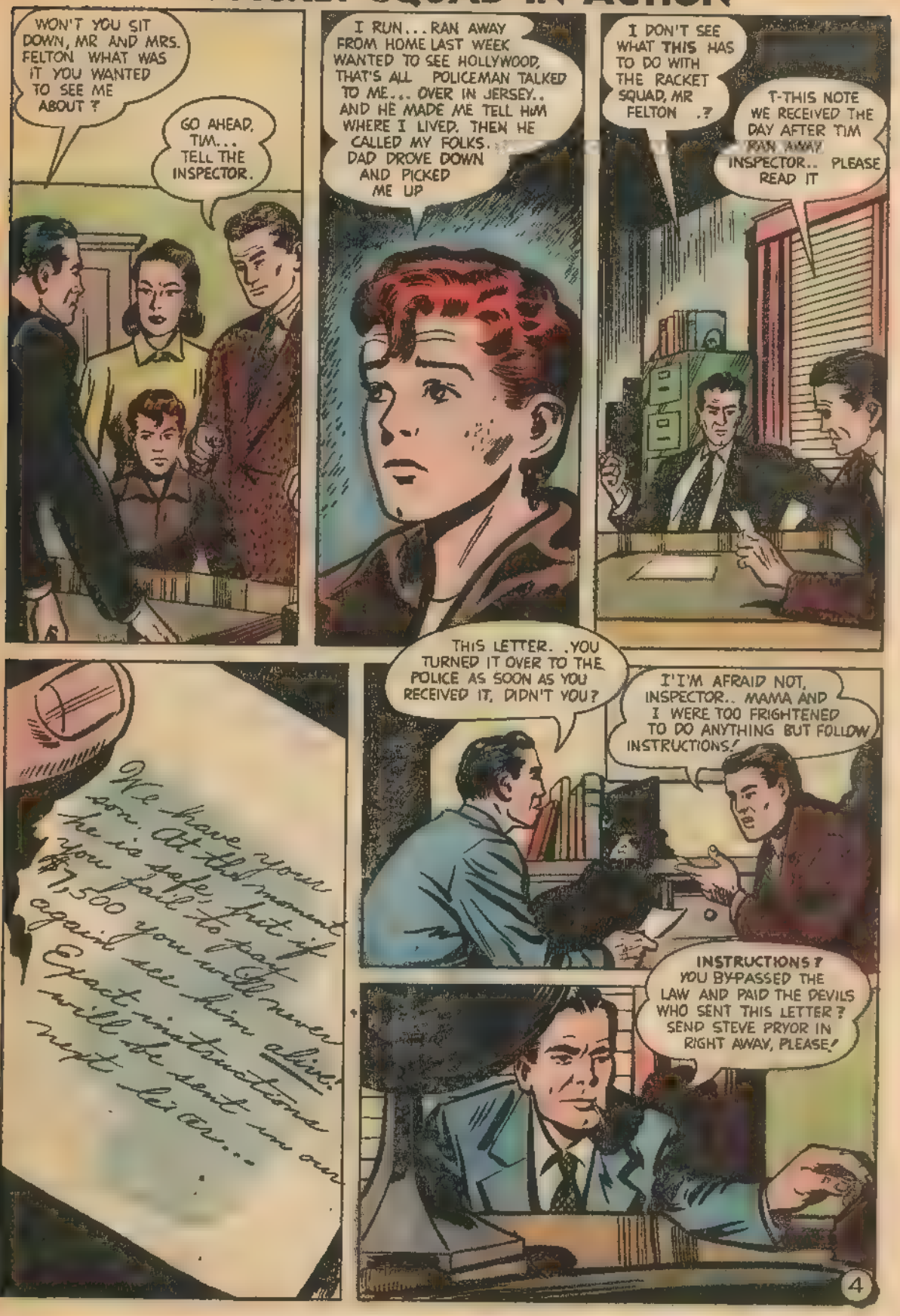


COUPLA MORE BONANZAS LIKE THIS AND THE HUSTLING HARROGS CAN RETIRE! W-WHY IF ONLY ONE IN TEN RESPONDS TO OUR RANSOM LETTERS WE'LL BE ROLLING IN CLOVER!

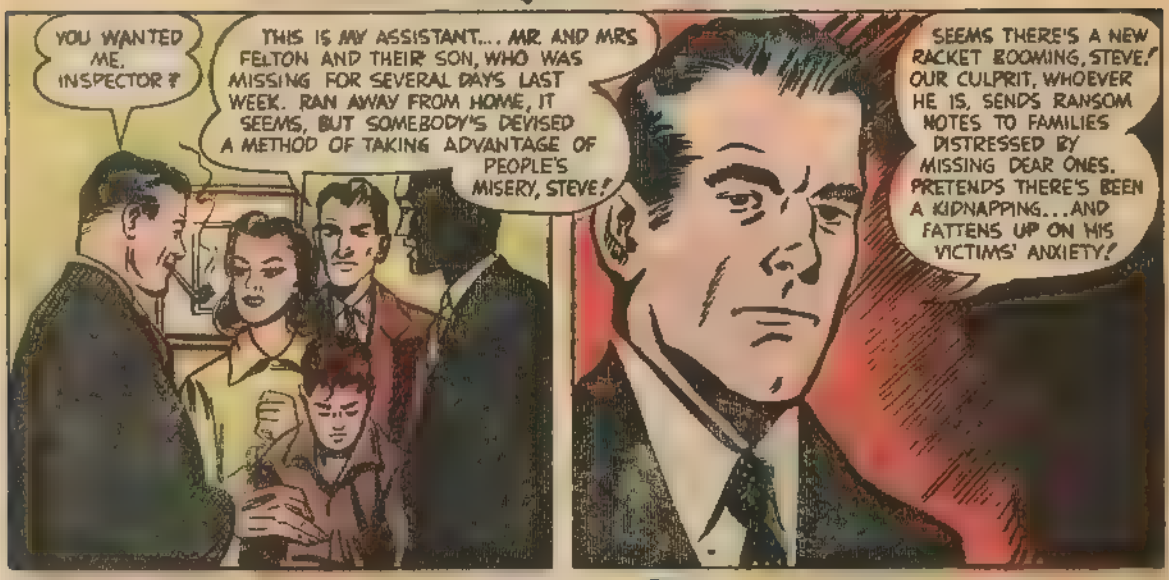
GUESS I WAS PRETTY SMART TO MARRY A GENIUS!
HEH HEH! YOU SURE WERE, EMMA! JUST GOES TO SHOW YOU... A BRIGHT COOKY CAN MAKE EVEN A TRAGEDY PAY OFF!

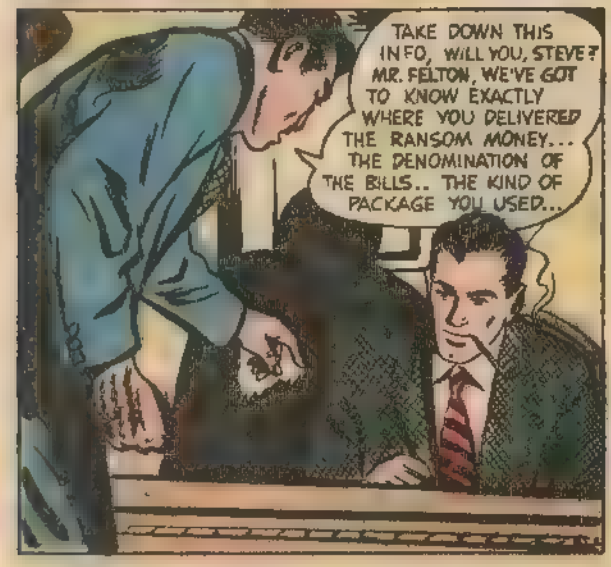
JUST HOW LONG THEIR INGENIOUS RACKET HAD BEEN PAYING OFF, ONLY FRED AND EMMA HARROG KNEW. AT THAT TIME OUR FIRST HINT OF WHAT WAS GOING ON CAME THE DAY THE FELTONS VISITED ME
HERE IT IS, MAMA INSPECTOR O'MALLEY
I HOPE HE WON'T PUT US IN JAIL FOR WHAT WE'VE DONE!
INSPECTOR J.J. O'MALLEY

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

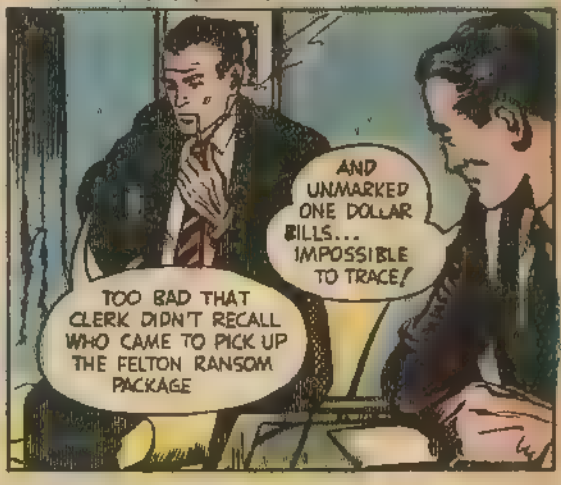

WON'T YOU SIT DOWN, MR AND MRS. FELTON WHAT WAS IT YOU WANTED TO SEE ME ABOUT ?
GO AHEAD, TIM... TELL THE INSPECTOR.
I RUN... RAN AWAY FROM HOME LAST WEEK WANTED TO SEE HOLLYWOOD, THAT'S ALL POLICEMAN TALKED TO ME... OVER IN JERSEY.. AND HE MADE ME TELL HIM WHERE I LIVED. THEN HE CALLED MY FOLKS.. DAD DROVE DOWN AND PICKED ME UP
I DON'T SEE WHAT THIS HAS TO DO WITH THE RACKET SQUAD, MR FELTON .?
T-THIS NOTE WE RECEIVED THE DAY AFTER TIM RAN AWAY INSPECTOR.. PLEASE READ IT
We have your son. At this moment he is safe, but if you fail to pay $7,500 you will never see him alive. Exact instructions will be sent in our next letter...
THIS LETTER. .YOU TURNED IT OVER TO THE POLICE AS SOON AS YOU RECEIVED IT, DIDN'T YOU?
I'I'M AFRAID NOT, INSPECTOR.. MAMA AND I WERE TOO FRIGHTENED TO DO ANYTHING BUT FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS!
INSTRUCTIONS ? YOU BY-PASSED THE LAW AND PAID THE DEVILS WHO SENT THIS LETTER ? SEND STEVE PRYOR IN RIGHT AWAY, PLEASE!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION


YOU WANTED ME, INSPECTOR?
THIS IS MY ASSISTANT... MR. AND MRS FELTON AND THEIR SON, WHO WAS MISSING FOR SEVERAL DAYS LAST WEEK. RAN AWAY FROM HOME, IT SEEMS, BUT SOMEBODY'S DEVISED A METHOD OF TAKING ADVANTAGE OF PEOPLE'S MISERY, STEVE!
SEEMS THERE'S A NEW RACKET BOOMING, STEVE! OUR CULPRIT, WHOEVER HE IS, SENDS RANSOM NOTES TO FAMILIES DISTRESSED BY MISSING DEAR ONES. PRETENDS THERE'S BEEN A KIDNAPPING...AND FATTENS UP ON HIS VICTIMS' ANXIETY!


TAKE DOWN THIS INFO, WILL YOU, STEVE? MR. FELTON, WE'VE GOT TO KNOW EXACTLY WHERE YOU DELIVERED THE RANSOM MONEY... THE DENOMINATION OF THE BILLS.. THE KIND OF PACKAGE YOU USED...

WE FOLLOWED UP THE SCANTY LEADS FELTON GAVE US... BUT THEY LED EXACTLY NOWHERE. ONE WEEK PASSED...


AND UNMARKED ONE DOLLAR BILLS... IMPOSSIBLE TO TRACE!
TOO BAD THAT CLERK DIDN'T RECALL WHO CAME TO PICK UP THE FELTON RANSOM PACKAGE

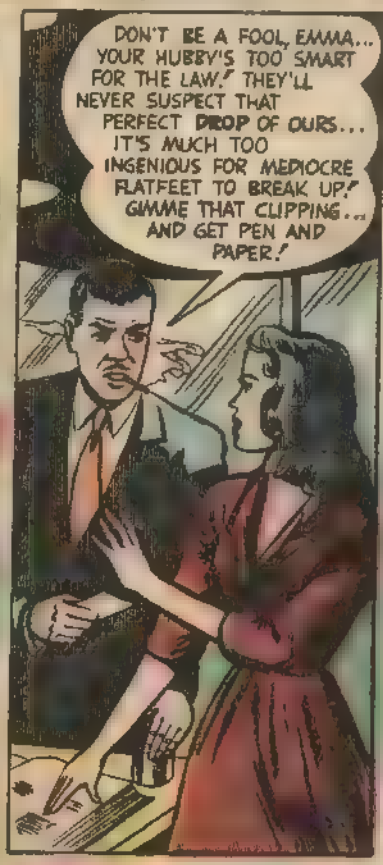
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SIT TIGHT AND WAIT FOR SOME OTHER VICTIM TO MAKE A COMPLAINT...
WAIT! I'VE GOT AN IDEA... WE'LL GIVE THESE RACKETEERS THEIR NEXT VICTIM!
SNAP!

COME ON, STEVE! WE'VE GOT A DATE WITH MEL FOX, OVER AT THE DAILY MAIL!
I-I THINK I'M BEGINNING TO GET A GLIMMER OF WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, BOSS! WE DELIVER A SET-UP... AND WAIT FOR THE GANG TO BITE!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

ON THE NEXT DAY'S PAPER, A SMALL ITEM MENTIONED THE DISAPPEARANCE OF A CERTAIN **PAUL PRYOR**, MISSING FOR TWO DAYS. THE HOME ADDRESS WAS STEVE'S. THE HARROGS... WE DISCOVERED LATER... WENT RIGHT TO WORK!

MORE BUSINESS FOR... FRED! ARE YOU STILL FOOLING WITH THAT INSANE SCRAP BOOK OF YOURS? ALL WE NEED IS FOR THE COPS TO GET THEIR HANDS ON...

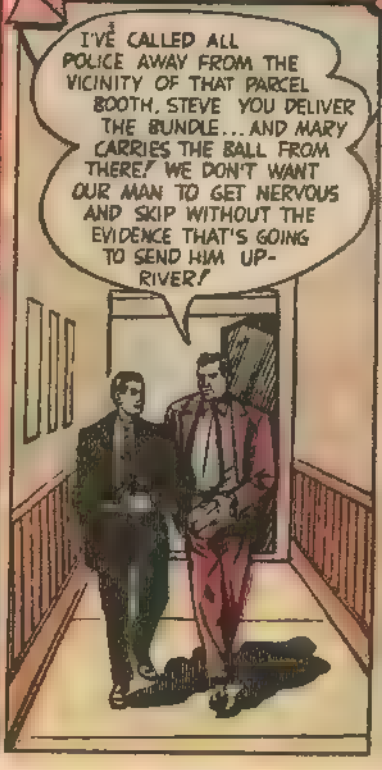

DON'T BE A FOOL, EMMA... YOUR HUBBY'S TOO SMART FOR THE LAW! THEY'LL NEVER SUSPECT THAT PERFECT **DROP** OF OURS... IT'S MUCH TOO INGENIOUS FOR MEDIOCRE FLATFEET TO BREAK UP! GIMME THAT CLIPPING... AND GET PEN AND PAPER!

THE NEXT DAY'S MAIL BROUGHT THE FIRST RANSOM NOTE. WE WAITED ONE MORE DAY, AND SURE ENOUGH...

HERE IT IS, INSPECTOR! CAME IN THIS MORNING'S MAIL! AND THE **DROP** IS WHERE YOU GUESSED IT WOULD BE...
THE PARCEL-CHECKING BOOTH, EH? WE'RE CLOSING IN NOW... TELL MARY QUIGLEY TO COME RIGHT IN! FOR A SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT...

THIS CALLS FOR A LITTLE ACTING ON YOUR PART, MARY. YOU'RE GOING TO WORK IN THE OFFICE AT THE PARCEL-CHECKING BOOTH... IT'S ALL BEEN ARRANGED. YOU'RE FLIGHTY.. A COUPLE OF YOUR OWN GRUDGES AGAINST THE LAW... MAYBE A BOY-FRIEND WHO'S DONE SOME TIME!
I GET THE PICTURE, INSPECTOR! I'LL GET RIGHT ON THE JOB!

THAT SAME AFTERNOON WE MADE UP A BUNDLE FOR OUR UNSUSPECTING VICTIM...


I'VE CALLED ALL POLICE AWAY FROM THE VICINITY OF THAT PARCEL BOOTH. STEVE YOU DELIVER THE BUNDLE... AND MARY CARRIES THE BALL FROM THERE! WE DON'T WANT OUR MAN TO GET NERVOUS AND SKIP WITHOUT THE EVIDENCE THAT'S GOING TO SEND HIM UP-RIVER!

THREE DAYS PASSED. AND THEN I RECEIVED THE CALL I'D BEEN WAITING FOR...

IT'S MARY! THE CLERK... FRED HARROG... COULDN'T WAIT ANY LONGER, EVIDENTLY. MUST HAVE GOTTEN ITCHY FINGERS AND SLIPPED THE PACKAGE INTO HIS OWN CLOTHES LOCKER! LET'S GET DOWN THERE BEFORE HE SCOOTS!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

I LEFT A PACKAGE HERE THREE DAYS AGO. IT WAS ADDRESSED TO MR. HOLLINGSWORTH.. WHO JUST CAME TO TOWN HERE'S THE RECEIPT... WILL YOU PLEASE GIVE HIM THE BUNDLE?
H-HOLLINGSWORTH? I-I'LL HAVE TO L-LOOK FOR IT, SIR!
THAT LOOK OF SURPRISE GAVE HIM AWAY! COVER THE BACK OF THE BOOTH, STEVE.. HE'S GOING TO TRY TO FADE!
SLOW DOWN, MISTER! MY FRIEND HOLLINGSWORTH IS ANXIOUS TO TALK TO YOU..
T-TAKE YOUR HAND OFF ME .!
SORRY, MISTER... IF YOU WANT TO BE SLOWED DOWN THE HARD WAY!
CRACK!
AGGHHHH! I-I'LL CALL THE COPS..
NO SOONER SAID THAN DONE, MR HARROG! INSPECTOR O'MALLEY AT YOUR SERVICE!
I I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT... THE POLICE COMMISSIONER'S GOING TO HEAR ABOUT YOU MOLESTING INNOCENT PEOPLE!
HERE'S THE PACKAGE INSPECTOR THE MANAGER.. MR BRAND.. OPENED HARROG'S LOCKER AND TOOK OUT THE BUNDLE FOR EVIDENCE!
OUR CUSTOMER'S READY FOR THE BLACK MARIA, INSPECTOR
CALL FOR IT, MARY! AND GET HARROG'S HOME ADDRESS FROM THE PERSONNEL FILES. THE HANDWRITING ON THIS RANSOM NOTE IS A WOMAN'S... MRS. HARROG, I SUSPECT!
A FEW MINUTES LATER...
W WHAT DO YOU WANT.. OH! P-POLICE...
WE'D LIKE TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOU, MRS. HARROG WE JUST HAD AN INTERESTING CONVERSATION WITH YOUR HUSBAND...
7

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

. . . AND HE TOLD US ALL ABOUT YOUR LITTLE OPERATION.
I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.' FRED AND I HAVE DONE NOTHING THAT WARRANTS YOUR BREAK NG IN HERE LIKE THIS. .

YOUR HANDWRITING, MRS HARROG... I'VE GOT A HUNCH WE'RE GOING TO BE ABLE TO MATCH IT TO THE RANSOM LETTERS YOUR VICTIMS HAVE BEEN RECEIVING!
H-HANDWR.TINGT DOESN'T PROVE A THING, COPPER . .

HERE.. WHAT'S THIS? LOOKS LIKE A SCRAPBOOK... FULL OF CLIPPINGS ABOUT MISSING PEOPLE! OUGHT TO BE A CLINCHER...
G-GIVE ME THAT BOOK! IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!!!

I'M AFRAID IT IS OUR BUSINESS, MRS. HARROG... AND BY TONIGHT IT'S GOING TO DEEPLY CONCERN THE POST OFFICE AUTHORITIES, THE F.B.I AND THE POLICE COMMISSIONER!
T-THAT FOOL! I WARNED HIM NOT TO KEEP THAT CRUMMY SCRAPBOOK! BUT THE JERK... A GENIUS HE CALLED HIMSELF... HE THOUGHT HE WAS TOO SMART FOR THE LAW TO PUT THE FINGER ON HIM!

TAKE HER AWAY, STEVE... I'LL GATHER UP THE EVIDENCE AND BRING IT ALONG WITH ME TO HEADQUARTERS. IT MAKES AS SORDID A STORY AS I'VE EVER RUN ACROSS!

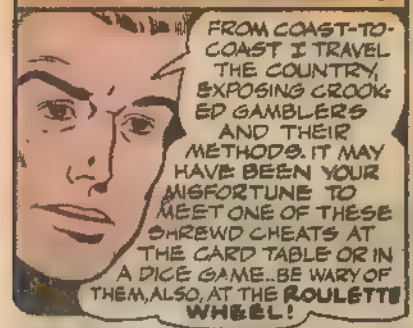
THAT ENDED THE STORY OF THE HARROGS... THE MISERY CHISELERS WHO TRIED TO PROSPER FROM THE AGONY OF OTHERS LIKE ALL THIEVES, THEY LEARNED THE HARD WAY THAT THEY DON'T STAND A CHANCE WHEN THE RACKET SQUAD SWINGS INTO ACTION!
THE END

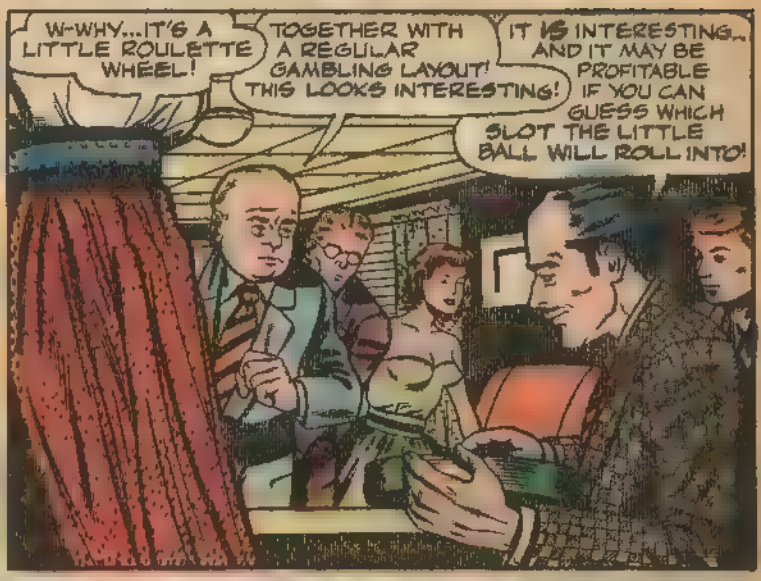
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

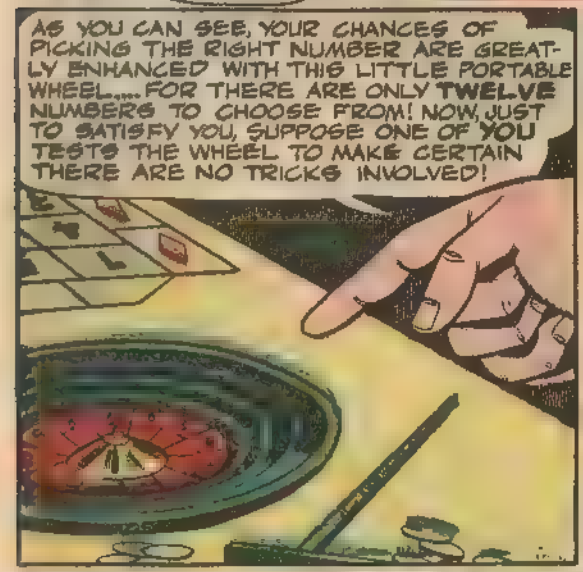
Sid Radner warns

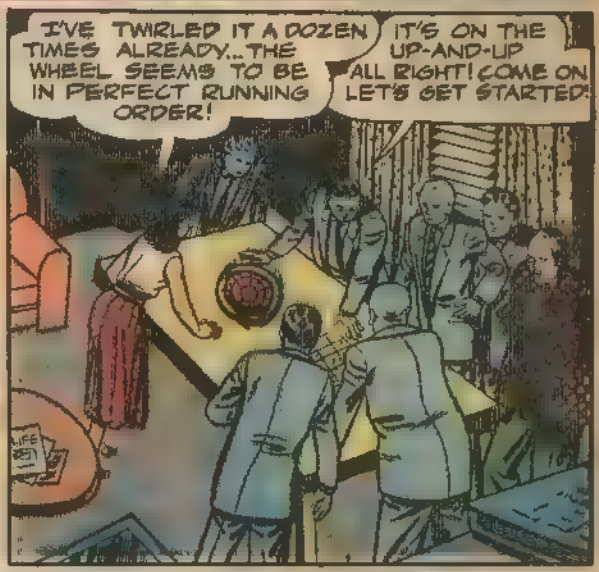
THE TURN OF THE WHEEL

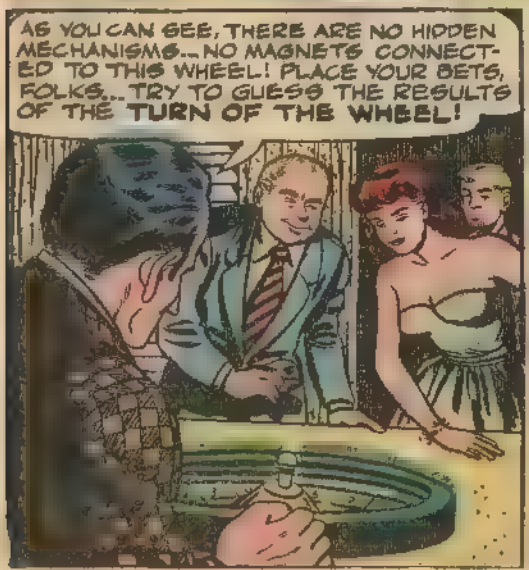
FAVORS THE GYP GAMBLER!


FROM COAST-TO-COAST I TRAVEL THE COUNTRY, EXPOSING CROOKED GAMBLERS AND THEIR METHODS. IT MAY HAVE BEEN YOUR MISFORTUNE TO MEET ONE OF THESE SHREWD CHEATS AT THE CARD TABLE OR IN A DICE GAME..BE WARY OF THEM, ALSO, AT THE ROULETTE WHEEL!


W-WHY...IT'S A LITTLE ROULETTE WHEEL!
TOGETHER WITH A REGULAR GAMBLING LAYOUT! THIS LOOKS INTERESTING!
IT IS INTERESTING.. AND IT MAY BE PROFITABLE IF YOU CAN GUESS WHICH SLOT THE LITTLE BALL WILL ROLL INTO!

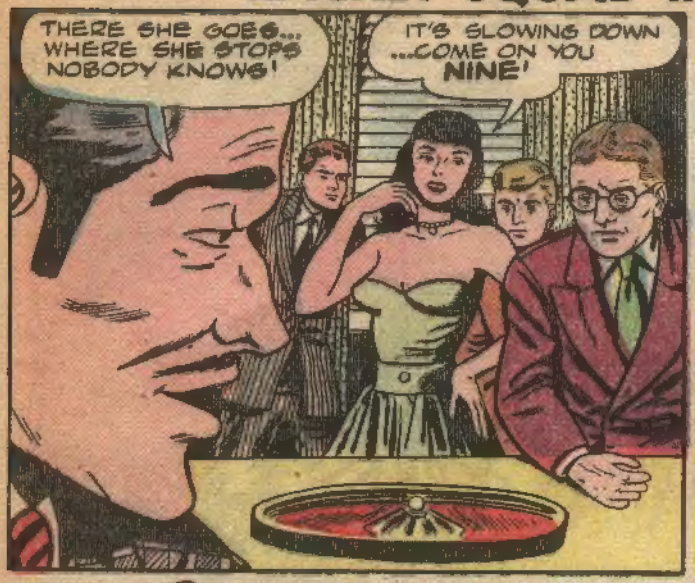

AS YOU CAN SEE, YOUR CHANCES OF PICKING THE RIGHT NUMBER ARE GREATLY ENHANCED WITH THIS LITTLE PORTABLE WHEEL.... FOR THERE ARE ONLY TWELVE NUMBERS TO CHOOSE FROM! NOW, JUST TO SATISFY YOU, SUPPOSE ONE OF YOU TESTS THE WHEEL TO MAKE CERTAIN THERE ARE NO TRICKS INVOLVED!


I'VE TWIRLED IT A DOZEN TIMES ALREADY...THE WHEEL SEEMS TO BE IN PERFECT RUNNING ORDER!
IT'S ON THE UP-AND-UP ALL RIGHT! COME ON LET'S GET STARTED!

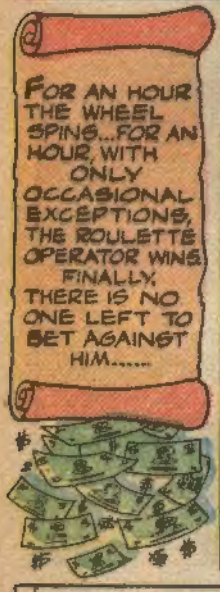

AS YOU CAN SEE, THERE ARE NO HIDDEN MECHANISMS... NO MAGNETS CONNECTED TO THIS WHEEL! PLACE YOUR BETS, FOLKS... TRY TO GUESS THE RESULTS OF THE TURN OF THE WHEEL!

ALL SET? FINE...I JUST WANT TO LOOK OVER THE TABLE TO SEE HOW MUCH YOU'VE BET! AND...HEH HEH... HOW MUCH I STAND TO LOSE!
I HOPE YOU'VE GOT A BIG BANKROLL BECAUSE I FEEL LUCKY TONIGHT! LET 'ER SPIN!

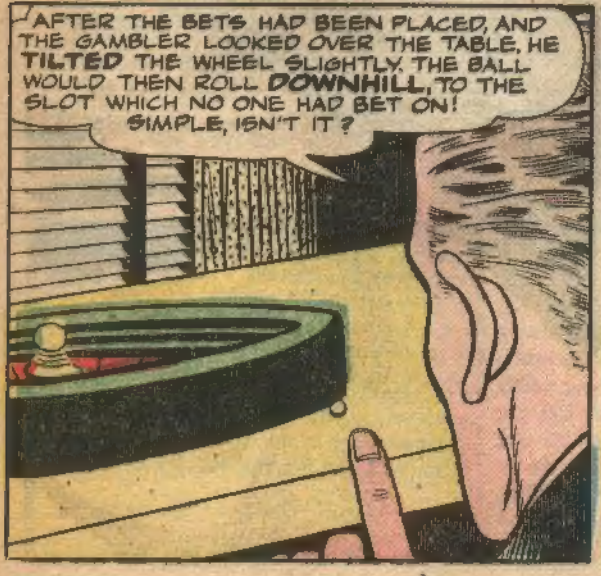
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

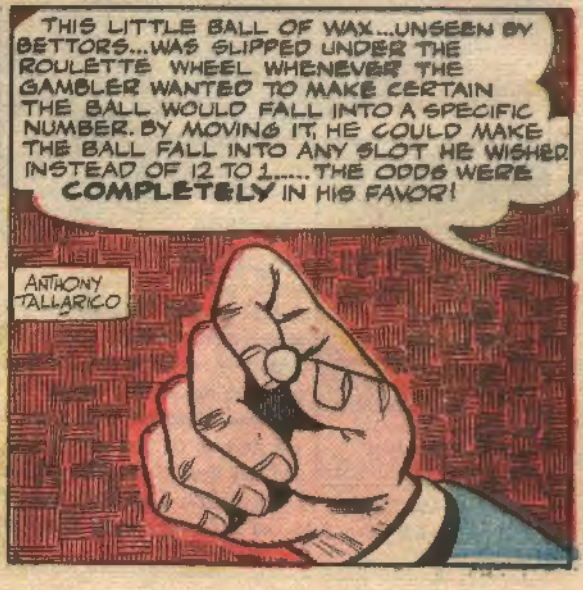


FOUR IT IS, FOLKS! SEEMS THAT YOU ALL GUESSED WRONG! TOO BAD ...BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME!
MY INTUITION TELLS ME TO BET THE WINNING NUMBER AGAIN! IT'S FOUR FOR ME,


FOR AN HOUR THE WHEEL SPINS...FOR AN HOUR, WITH ONLY OCCASIONAL EXCEPTIONS, THE ROULETTE OPERATOR WINS. FINALLY, THERE IS NO ONE LEFT TO BET AGAINST HIM.....

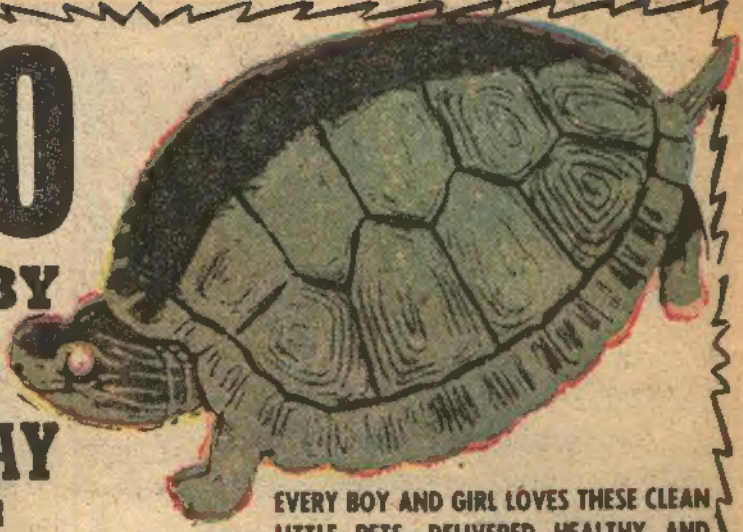
AFTER HIS CUSTOMERS HAD TESTED THE WHEEL, HOW WAS THE PROPRIETOR ABLE TO CLEAN THEM OUT? IT WASN'T THE WHEEL... BUT THE GAMBLER, HIMSELF, WHO TURNED THE TRICK!


AFTER THE BETS HAD BEEN PLACED, AND THE GAMBLER LOOKED OVER THE TABLE, HE TILTED THE WHEEL SLIGHTLY. THE BALL WOULD THEN ROLL DOWNHILL, TO THE SLOT WHICH NO ONE HAD BET ON! SIMPLE, ISN'T IT?


THIS LITTLE BALL OF WAX...UNSEEN BY BETTORS...WAS SLIPPED UNDER THE ROULETTE WHEEL WHENEVER THE GAMBLER WANTED TO MAKE CERTAIN THE BALL WOULD FALL INTO A SPECIFIC NUMBER. BY MOVING IT, HE COULD MAKE THE BALL FALL INTO ANY SLOT HE WISHED INSTEAD OF 12 TO 1..... THE ODDS WERE COMPLETELY IN HIS FAVOR!
ANTHONY TALLARICO

1000 *LIVE* BABY TURTLES GIVEN AWAY

WITH THIS OFFER



EVERY BOY AND GIRL LOVES THESE CLEAN LITTLE PETS. DELIVERED HEALTHY AND SAFE IN A SPECIAL MOSS-PROTECTED PACKAGE.

Here's one of the most exciting toys you've ever owned. Just think — a baby turtle all your own. What's more, a real growing garden to keep him in, a garden you plant and grow all by yourself. You can teach him to recognize you when you feed him. Watch him swim — see how he pulls his head and feet into his shell when he's frightened. You can have turtle races — you can make a little house for him to live in — and all the time you can watch how the lovely, soft grass grows — see and smell the beautiful flowers. You'll amaze your friends with how much you know about animals and plants.

MAGIC ROCK GARDEN
Grows Real Grass & Flowers in 4 Days

only **$1.00**

HERE'S OUR OFFER

You pay only $1.00 for the rock garden and turtle plus 25¢ for packing and mailing AND you must be 100% delighted or money back. Only 3 orders to a customer with this special offer. Hurry Coupon!

FEATURES

Everything You Need

You get all these items — you don't need anything else. Plenty of Magic grass seeds. Magic soil, lovely flower seeds. Practical attractive container. Bright-colored metal butterfly. American Flag. Parasol that opens and closes. Simulated rocks. Plant food. Many other exciting features.

Magic Seeds in Magic Soil

A real growing Rock Garden — about 100 square inches of sweet grass and bright lovely flowers — for you to care for. When the flowers grow you can pluck a bouquet for your mother or friend. When the grass grows too high you will have to cut and trim it. And all the time you will have a beautiful garden you can be proud of and show off to your friends. You'll learn many useful things, too — it will even help you understand many things they teach at school.

10 DAY TRIAL FREE!

Honor House Products Corp. Dept. 350
136 Broadway, New York 3, N. Y.

Rush my Rock Garden and live baby turtle at once. If I am not completely satisfied I may return the garden for prompt refund of the full purchase price, and I may keep the turtle ABSOLUTELY FREE. Price is $1.00 plus 25¢ for postage and handling.

☐ Enclosed find $ ..... in full payment.
☐ Send C.O.D. I'll pay postman, plus C.O.D. fee on delivery.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

FREE...10 HITLER STAMPS

10 Scarce Stamps – All Different – Sent Free

TO SECURE NAMES FOR OUR MAILING LIST

MAIL coupon at once. We'll send you this fascinating set of 10 Hitler stamps. Different sizes, colors, values. NO COST TO YOU.

These valuable stamps were issued by the short-lived nation of Bohemia-Moravia. They are much sought after. Now they are becoming SCARCE. And since the nation is no longer in existence—no new issues can be minted. Our supply is limited. So, don't ask for more than one set.

FREE 32-Page Book

In addition to the FREE Hitler Stamps, we'll also include other interesting offers for your inspection—PLUS a FREE copy of our helpful, informative book, "How To Collect Postage Stamps." It contains fascinating and true stories such as the one about the 1¢ stamp (which a schoolboy gladly sold for $1.50) and which was later bought for FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS.

This Free Book also contains expert advice on collecting; shows how to get started; where and how to find rare stamps; how to tell their real value; how to mount them, trade them; how to start a stamp club; exciting stamp games, etc. It has pictures galore! Full pages of pictures showing odd stamps depicting native men and women from faraway lands; ferocious beasts, etc.

MAIL COUPON NOW

Be the first in your neighborhood to have this valuable set of Hitler Stamps. Your friends will envy you for it and want to buy the set from you. It will become one of the most prized sets of any stamp collection. But you must hurry if you want to get the 10 Hitler Stamps FREE. This special offer may have to be withdrawn soon. If coupon has already been used, write direct to: **Littleton Stamp Co., Dept. S-CHC, Littleton, New Hampshire. (Enclose 10¢ to help cover postage and handling).**

Also Free

ΕΛΛΑΣ
ΑΕΡΟΠΟΡΙΚΟΝ
HOW TO COLLECT POSTAGE STAMPS
STORIES FROM POSTAGE STAMPS
HOW TO START A STAMP CLUB
WHERE & HOW TO HUNT FOR RARE OLD STAMPS WORTH FORTUNES

Supply Limited Mail Coupon At Once!

LITTLETON STAMP CO.,
DEPT. S-CHC, LITTLETON, N. H.

Send—AT NO COST TO ME—the valuable set of 10 Hitler stamps and the informative booklet, "How To Collect Postage Stamps." I enclose 10¢ to help cover postage and handling.

Name.....

Address.....

City.....State.....

Need Extra Spending Money?

HERE'S $50 TO USE AS YOU PLEASE!

Take Easy Orders For STUART CHRISTMAS CARDS

Why not get all those things your heart is set on with money you earn by yourself! You can do it quickly and easily in your spare time! All you do is show our gorgeous greeting card samples for Christmas, birthdays and other year 'round occasions. We send you the samples on approval. Friends, neighbors, relatives, almost *everybody* buys on sight. You make sensational cash profits—fast!

YOU NEED NO EXPERIENCE TO EARN!

Exciting new 21-Card Christmas Assortment at $1 is a bargain that sells itself. Yet you keep up to 50¢ of each $1 as your quick, cash profit. Sell 100 boxes to folks you know and *$50 is yours!* Low-priced Name-Imprinted Christmas Cards, All-Occasion Assortments, Stationery and many other fast-sellers make still more money for you!

GET SAMPLES ON FREE TRIAL!

Send no money! We'll send you saleable sample assortments on approval for FREE TRIAL. Act fast and we'll also include Samples of Personalized money-makers FREE. Just fill out and mail coupon.

It's Easy To Make Money... Look At These Exceptional Earning Records

K.W.C., Geneva, Nebr., made $44.00
K.C., Marion, Ind., made $52.00
J.D., Milwaukee, Wis., made $108.00
S.K., Chicago, Ill., made $147.00
R.B., Medway, Mass., made $59.00
D.S., Boulder, Colo., made $55.00
D.B., Holland, Mich., made $50.00
W.A., Goodland, Ind., made $59.00

CLUB MEMBERS! Your organization can earn hundreds of dollars with the easy, proven STUART fund-raising plan. Send coupon for full details.

MAIL COUPON NOW

STUART GREETINGS, INC.
325 W. Randolph St., Dept. 409, Chicago 6, Ill.

STUART GREETINGS, INC., Dept. 409
325 W. Randolph St., Chicago 6, Ill.

YES! I want to earn extra spending money. Please send details with Assortments on approval and Personalized Samples FREE

Name _____

Address _____

City & Zone _____ *State* _____

_____

If for a club, give its name above.